

New Storm Kills 9 in California

El Nino-Related Unleash Tornadoes, Mudslides on Coast

By Todd S. Pyles

LOS ANGELES — A sixth person died in a mudslide on a stormy night of California clearing up from torrential rains, triggering that damaged homes, cars and caused the deaths of nine people from the coastal Mexican border.

Two California Highway officers who had gone to distract tourists in distress on Highway 101, northbound, died Tuesday after a mudslide washed away a car and carried off a tractor-trailer dozen cars and the officers' cars.

In Claremont, a college student's car was hit by a mudslide on the eastern outskirts of Los Angeles, both 19, were killed. The tree crushed them inside a utility vehicle. Another man ran away above Laguna Beach County after a mudslide took his house where he had sought shelter.

A sixth person died in a mudslide on a fog-shrouded hillside in San Joaquin Valley. Another four were missing from a mudslide in Tijuana, Mexico, being evacuated from the area.

In San Jose, two people, a man and a woman, were killed when a truck driver lost his rig on Highway 180, according to Associated Press.

By afternoon Tuesday, sun was to sunshine over Los Angeles basin, and no heavy rain fell through the week.

Los Angeles has set a new record rainfall, 13.68 inches, in December, the wettest December since 1937, which was the wettest single month in recent record-keeping began.

Statewide, a series of severe storms beginning the month has cost more than \$200 million in damages, Gov. Gray Davis Wilson to declare a state of emergency in nearly half of California's 58 counties.

■ Clinton Tours Central Florida

President Bill Clinton began a three-day trip to central Florida on Wednesday, from tornados, assessing the damage and placing words of comfort and support from the White House to the victims of Hurricane Opal.

Mr. Clinton, who has also visited the region a disaster area, will travel to areas of greatest damage Monday.

Dueling Over Executive Privilege

Clinton Could Invoke Weapon to Shield Aides in Starr Inquiry

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The White House is locked in "ongoing discussions" with prosecutors in an attempt to avoid a confrontation over the use of executive privilege to exempt presidential aides from having to testify about aspects of the Monica Lewinsky case, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, James Kennedy, would not specifically confirm or deny a report Wednesday in The New York Times that the White House had already decided to invoke executive privilege to shield some of President Bill Clinton's closest advisers from questioning.

But Lanny Breuer, an associate White House counsel who has worked to protect Mr. Clinton from legal fallout surrounding the Whitewater real-estate affair, was summoned before the 23-member jury. His appearance, expected as early as Wednesday, could precipitate an assertion of executive privilege.

To do so in a criminal investigation could have serious legal implications; courts have ruled that an executive privilege assertion can be overruled if prosecutors make a clear case that they need the information being sought and cannot obtain it otherwise.

Politically, Mr. Clinton's detractors would be certain to portray such an assertion as a sign that the president had something to hide.

Another top presidential aide, Sidney Blumenthal, appeared Tuesday without testifying and was ordered to return Thursday with records of any conversations he has had with reporters about the Lewinsky investigation.

The Times, quoting lawyers involved in the case, said that Mr. Clinton decided to invoke executive privilege after Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, filed a motion last week to compel Bruce Lindsey, the deputy White House counsel and one of the president's closest friends and advisers, to testify. Mr. Lindsey deferred answers to some questions in two grand-jury appearances.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of U.S. District Court, who is overseeing the grand jury, could hear arguments on a White House assertion of executive privilege as early as this week, The Times said.

In related development, a federal judge on Tuesday gave lawyers for Paula Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who has sued Mr. Clinton for sexual misconduct, more time to respond to a request by his attorneys to dismiss the suit. The trial is scheduled for May 27.

Lewinsky Co-Workers Sought

Susan Schmidt and Toni Lacy of The Washington Post reported earlier:

Mr. Starr has sought testimony from former co-workers of Ms. Lewinsky who might be able to shed light on how she moved from an unpaid internship to a paid White House job in late 1995 and

affair with Ms. Lewinsky, a former intern, and then urged her to deny it under oath. The president has denied the charges.

On Wednesday, prosecutors questioned witnesses who might be able to explain the circumstances around the sudden transfer of Ms. Lewinsky from her White House job to the Pentagon on April 17, 1996.

One of these was Timothy Keating, the official who arranged the transfer.

Separately, Mr. Clinton's attorneys, David Kendall and Robert Bennett, said they endorsed a White House statement denying accusations by Joseph diGenova, a Republican former prosecutor, that investigators for Mr. Clinton were looking into him and his wife, Victoria Toensing, a former prosecutor.

There is public information available, which, of course, is our duty as counsel to research and gather, the lawyers said. But we have not investigated, and are not investigating, the personal lives of Ms. Toensing, Mr. diGenova, prosecutors, investigators, or members of the press.

■ Short Takes

Florida has backed down in a clash with vendors over the Latin American tradition of selling coffee through open windows. Health inspectors will not enforce a rule requiring coffee sellers to install screens or sliding glass between the window and the food area. Cuban coffee is served through the sidewalk windows of cafes, bakeries, grocery stores and gas stations throughout south Florida. State regulators had called the open windows a health hazard. But residents of Miami, which is more than 55 percent Hispanic, complained. Even Mayor Alex Penelas said crackdown would have brought "economic disaster."

The ruling does not mean sex shops will disappear from New York City. The law designates isolated commercial and manufacturing areas across the city where sex shops will still be allowed. Stores that trade in pornographic videos or magazines can restructure their businesses so that pornographic wares make up less than 40 percent of the inventory. Those shopkeepers can open up a back room that cannot be seen from the street, filled with the same materials they sell now.

■ Quality of life strategy, Mr. Giuliani said at a news conference at City Hall. This was a highly criticized program. It was one that many people doubted would work.

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■ A fertility clinic has doubled the usual payment for human eggs, from \$2,500 to \$5,000, raising concerns that the quest for egg donors is becoming a bidding war.

The move by the clinic at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey, has also prompted a debate over whether human eggs are a gift to be given, or a commodity to be bought and sold.

■ A navy ship was set to begin blasting high-volume sounds at humpback whales after a federal judge in Honolulu rejected environmentalists' arguments that the research program could harm the endangered animals. The navy hopes to study how the whales react and then use that data in an environmental impact statement for a new sonar program designed to detect quiet submarines.

■ A man convicted of killing two brothers in a drunken brawl was executed by injection in Potosí, Missouri, after arguing that he had not received an adequate defense from an attorney who became his lover. The case of Reginald Powell, 29, drew national attention because of the affair between Mr. Powell and his original trial lawyer, Marianne Markors.

■ The 21,000 students in Wisconsin's third-biggest school district, in Racine, returned to classes with the teacher contract dispute that shut schools for two days still unresolved.

■ A woman held for 22 hours, strip searched and forced to take laxatives by customs agents during a futile search for drugs has been awarded \$450,000 by a federal jury.

Lawyers for Amanda Burback, of Port Chester, New York, argued that agents at San Francisco International Airport had no reason to suspect her of being a drug courier.

■ The nation's growing prison population has had one welcome, if unexpected, consequence: More and more inmates are working to help children in low-income areas, by revamping old computers for their schools or holding cell-to-cell food drives during holidays.

At the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in the high desert, an inmate group recycles aluminum cans, flattens cardboard boxes and passes the hat to raise money and buy reading books for schoolchildren in a tough Reno neighborhood.

Many schools had turned down the Nevada inmates' offer of help. But at the Stead School in Reno, a hard-scrabble area where some children sleep in the family car, the gifts were welcomed.

Ms. Hill endures thunderstorms, winds of up to 90 miles (145 kilometers) an hour, near-freezing temperatures and the verbal taunts of employees of Pacific Lumber, the company that owns the land where her tree, which she calls Luna, stands.

The company owns one of the largest privately held groves of ancient redwoods in the world, including 10,000 acres of old-growth trees.

The issue of protecting them has polarized area residents. Pacific Lumber is the leading private employer in the county, which also has a powerful environmentalist contingent.

Ms. Hill says she will come down only when the Pacific Lumber woodmen agree to spare the tree, worth perhaps \$100,000 as lumber.

So she goes on living on an 8-by-8-foot plywood platform under a dome of tarps, using candles for light, an one-burner propane stove for cooking, an empty margarine container for you-know-what and spending her days — how else? — climbing the tree.

Brian Knowlton

THE AMERICAS

POLITICAL NOTES

Senate Finance Bill Survives (in a Way)

WASHINGTON — In a symbolic victory for the bill's sponsors, the Senate has voted to keep alive legislation that would overhaul the way political campaigns in the United States are financed.

But the Senate's vote of 51 to 48 on Tuesday against the attempt by Senator Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, to kill the bipartisan campaign-finance legislation is only a limited victory for supporters. The vote fell well short of the 60 needed to break a Republican filibuster, a senatorial technique that would keep the bill from winning final approval this year.

The bill's sponsors, Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Russell Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, had long sought a direct vote on their proposal. A total of 44 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted to sustain the campaign-finance measure, and 48 Republicans voted to kill it.

Minutes after allowing the overhaul forces its symbolic victory, Mr. Lott, the majority leader, went on the offensive, using a parliamentary tactic that would allow him to choke off any more amendments that might build more Republican support for the McCain-Feingold bill.

Democrats responded by threatening to do what they did last year: try to tie the Senate in procedural knots

throughout the year to keep campaign-finance overhaul alive.

The confrontation came in the aftermath of a 1996 presidential election that saw the virtual collapse of the public campaign-finance system, as the two parties found ways to use so-called soft money to find ways around the campaign spending limits in the public-finance law.

But while the Republican leadership was intent on examining the president's campaign-finance practices, it has fiercely resisted legislation that would eat into the party's fund-raising advantage. Mr. Lott worked hard last year to prevent the campaign-finance bill from coming to the floor, and only grudgingly allowed the vote Tuesday after overhaul supporters created a three-week logjam in the Senate last autumn.

The McCain-Feingold bill would ban soft money — the unlimited, unregulated large donations to political parties — which was at the heart of many of the 1996 abuses. (NYT)

Advertising is "rightful, legal behavior for a consumer-product company," Steven Goldstone, chairman and chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco Holding Corp., told the Senate Commerce Committee on Tuesday.

"It's our constitutional right, and if we stop doing it," he continued, making a swooping motion with his hand, "our business is going to go like that."

The issue is critical because a central element of the accord reached last June by the tobacco companies and most of the state attorneys general, which can go into effect only to the degree it is approved by Congress, involves a trade-off. The companies would trade what they contend is their constitutional right to advertise their products broadly for immunity from class-action lawsuits.

But some in Congress are reluctant to give such a legal break to the industry. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Susan McDougal, serving an 18-month jail sentence for refusing to answer Ken Starr's questions on the Whitewater case before a grand jury, saying that the independent counsel is placing Monica Lewinsky in an awkward position: "What they're saying to Monica Lewinsky: 'Either you tell our story or we prosecute you for perjury. There's no way you can just go in and tell the truth to these people.'" (AP)

Pentagon Under Attack (by Hackers)

'Fairly Heavy' Offensive Launched Against Unclassified Networks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — During the last two weeks, the Pentagon's unclassified computer networks have been subjected to "fairly heavy cyber attacks," a deputy secretary of defense, John Hamre, said Wednesday.

"It was the most organized and systematic attack the Pentagon has seen to date," Mr. Hamre said.

He added that the event had "all the appearances of a game" and apparently was perpetrated by "a small number of individuals."

But, he continued, he could not divulge many details because the military was working with the Justice Department to determine potential criminal activity.

The attacks appear to be directed at unclassified information, like personnel records or payroll matters, he said.

"Our classified networks were intact and not penetrated," he said, describing the attacks as "widespread and moderately sophisticated."

"During the last two weeks, the department experienced fairly heavy cyber attacks," Mr. Hamre said.

He explained that the apparent hackers tried to enter networks handled by all branches of the military services.

"All the services had penetration to some degree," he explained.

The attacks could be described as "voyerism or vandalism," he continued.

"There are hackers who enjoy breaking into peoples' computers just to see what they can see," he said, adding that there was a certain "mystique" attached to breaking into the Pentagon's computers.

The Defense Department has been

BEEP IN
PAGE IN

CHECK IN ON TWO OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

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EXPECT THE WORLD

ASIA/PACIFIC

ASEAN Seeks Funds to Avert Another Costly Season of HazeBy Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — With forest fires in Indonesia threatening to cast another pall of smoke-borne pollution over Southeast Asia, officials in the region appealed Wednesday for international aid to help prevent a recurrence of the 1997 crisis that is estimated to have cost more than \$1.3 billion in damage to health, disrupted industry and transport and lost tourism.

Environment ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, meeting in Kuching, Malaysia, said that a recent outbreak of fires in the nearby Indonesian province of Kalimantan Timur on Borneo Island was a worrying development brought on by drought over much of the region caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Officials warned that Indonesia's economic crisis meant that Jakarta would have less money and fewer resources to fight the fires. They said that Canada, France, Germany and the United States had offered aid, but that more was needed.

"The meeting noted that the fires in east Kalimantan are of serious concern because of the prolonged dry weather and welcomed any immediate international assistance, especially in enhancing fire-fighting capacity," the ministers said in a joint statement issued at the end of their one-day meeting.

ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Raging fires in Kalimantan and Sumatra last year threw a thick blanket of smoke over much of Southeast Asia from July to November that trapped transport and industrial fumes, creating an unpleasant and sometimes toxic smog.

The fires this year have so far caused only intermittent haze on Borneo affecting Indonesian territory, two Malaysian states and Brunei, all of which share the island.

But officials of nearby countries worry that when the prevailing winds change in April or May and blow northward, the smoke will be carried across densely populated Singapore, peninsular Malaysia and even as far as southern Thailand and the Philippines, affecting about 70 million people, as was the case last year.

Smoke and pollution in 1997 from the Indonesian fires — started by plantation companies and farmers to clear land cheaply — caused more than \$1.3 billion in damage, according to a study released Wednesday.

The study was conducted by the Singapore-based Economy and Environ-

ment Program for Southeast Asia and the Indonesian office of the World Wide Fund for Nature. It used what the environmental groups said were very conservative calculations.

The study found that Indonesia bore the brunt of the damage, with an estimated \$1 billion in losses, more than 90 percent of which was attributable to short-term health costs, such as respiratory and eye infections.

Malaysia suffered more than \$300 million in damage, mainly due to lost industrial production and tourism revenue. The haze cost Singapore more than \$60 million, chiefly from a drop in tourism as visitors shunned the region, the study said.

"Indonesia could have used its lost resources to provide basic sanitation, water and sewage services for 40 million people, or about one-third of the rural poor," said David Glover, director of Economy and Environment. "Our work did not take into account such costs as long-term damage to health, which may persist for decades and even exceed the short-term health costs, or losses directly attributable to fire, which are believed to be considerable, possibly equaling or exceeding those of the haze alone."

"The fires in the forests are very difficult to control," said the Indonesian environment minister, Sarwono Kusumahadja, adding that 4,000 hectares (about 10,000 acres) of land were burning in Kalimantan Timur, an estimate environmentalists said was much too low.



An Indonesian farmer Wednesday at the charred remains of a cemetery near Samarinda, Kalimantan Timur.

Taiwan Economy Weathers Stormy Asian SeasBy Edward A. Gargan
New York Times Service

TAOYUAN, Taiwan — Every 12 seconds, a matte black computer monitor tube slides off a robotized assembly line here and is packed by human hands in Styrofoam cases for shipment around the world. Last year, the company, Chungwa Picture Tubes Ltd., shipped 20 million of them to computer makers from IBM and Philips to Toshiba and Acer.

Yet despite such blue-blooded customers and the increasing efficiency of its operation, profits at Chungwa, an unlisted subsidiary of one of Taiwan's largest conglomerates, the Tatung Co., have continued to sink.

Chungwa's quandary lies at the heart of the financial and economic crisis that has engulfed much of Asia.

Widely excessive corporate borrowing in South Korea, Japan, and much of Southeast Asia caused currencies to plummet, leading many companies to slash prices in an effort to export their way out of crisis. Competitors in Korea, in particular, have forced Chungwa again and again to cut prices, sinking profits in the process.

But Lin Chen Yuan, who runs the company, is confident that he can ride out the storm, buoyed by the financial strength of his own company and sheltered by the Taiwan economy, which has been relatively calm throughout the typhoons afflicting the rest of the region.

Taiwan survived its own excesses earlier in the decade, analysts here and elsewhere in Asia say, emerging in better shape than neighbors.

"I'm optimistic," said Kuo Wen-

chung, an economist at the Chinese Economic Institute, which does economic research for both industry and government. "We're still enjoying the fruits of our past efforts."

Across the spectrum, from wary analysts to government economists, from bankers to manufacturers, the country is seen as running a solid economy blessed with towering foreign exchange reserves, now worth \$83 billion; a healthy

although shrinking trade surplus; relatively low debt levels, and growth in excess of inflation expected to be near 6 percent this year.

This is not to say that Taiwan's earlier problems have allowed the country to pass through the current Asian crisis unscathed.

"Of course we are affected," said Jeffrey L. S. Koo, the chairman of Taiwan's largest private bank, Chinatrust Commercial Bank, sitting in his office graced by a moody, very blue Marc Chagall painting. In the elegant waiting room outside, tucked behind a thick pane of glass, hangs an early work by Claude Monet. "Our currency had devalued about 15 percent. But Taiwan is still in very good shape: it's very simple. The balance of trade has been favorable, around \$15 billion. And Taiwan had its property bubble several years ago."

While some Taiwan banks remain burdened by excessive loans to builders, construction cranes no longer speckle the skyline here like so many one-legged flamingos. Taiwan's construction boom

is more flexible than many of these other countries," Mr. Liang added. "Taiwan has focused on small and medium businesses rather than the large conglomerates like South Korea and Southeast Asia."

And more than anywhere else in Asia, Mr. Liang said, Taiwan's restrictive and regulated banking system prevented an avalanche of risky lending abroad.

"Banks in Taiwan have been quite conservative," he said. "They won't suffer very much. They have very little exposure to the region."

And given the heaps of scorn that have now fallen on the "crony capitalism" practiced in much of Asia, Diahann Brown, who oversees an investment fund that concentrates on Taiwan, is convinced that this geographically isolated island nation will serve as a beacon in the midst of economic change.

With China in 1996 and growth sank to 5.7 percent. We've just emerged from the trough."

But even more important is the difference between Taiwan's economy and most of the others in the region. "Taiwan

is the model of Asian capitalism," she said. "The Koreans only wanted market share at any cost. But Taiwan was much more conservative and the government is much less involved in foreign investment and in creating politically connected corporations than anywhere else in Asia."

Indeed, its isolation may prove a blessing in disguise. "Taiwan knows," Ms. Brown said, "that if things go wrong, nobody is going to help them."

Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of Taiwan's cabinet-level Council for Economic Planning and Development who exercises authority over economic strategy, is scathing in his assessment of the policies followed elsewhere.

"A lot of money borrowed in Southeast Asia went not into manufacturing but into the stock market and the property market," he argued. "The competitiveness of our economy is manufacturing."

In less than a decade, the structure of Taiwan's exports has changed dramatically. In 1990, according to the Finance Ministry, electronics and semiconductors accounted for only 2.5 percent of manufacturing. But by last year, the share was about 37.5 percent.

Mr. Kuo predicted that Taiwan would sustain strong growth this year, although he anticipated a somewhat lower rate than the Finance Ministry's projection of 6.7 percent.

Still, he says see problems looming down the road.

"Five years from now, when our current products are losing competitiveness, we will be in trouble," he said. "To maintain Taiwan's competitiveness, we need new technology, new products and new markets."

BRIEFLY**Communist Elite Gathers in China**

BEIJING — China's Communist elite gathered behind closed doors Wednesday to start a three-day meeting, a week before the opening of the annual session of Parliament, party sources said.

The party elite, including about 200 members of the Central Committee and veteran revolutionaries, were to debate 11-hour changes to a proposal to streamline the government bureaucracy by spinning off corporations under ministries, the sources said.

Officials reached by telephone declined to comment on the meeting, but witnesses said security was tight in and around the Jingxi guesthouse in western Beijing, where the sources said the meeting was under way.

Defector Det
Dwarfing U.S. Program

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Set to Pick Cha

Taleban Arrests Squatter Soldiers

KABUL — Taleban troops swept through once-posh neighborhoods of the war-devastated Afghan capital Wednesday, arresting fellow soldiers who had illegally occupied homes after the militia took over Kabul.

The Taleban forced President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmed Shah Masoud, to flee Kabul in 1996, leaving behind scores of empty homes once occupied by his government ministers and commanders. Militia authorities took over some of the homes, while others were occupied by bands of armed soldiers.

The authorities said they found at least 30 soldiers Wednesday who had illegally occupied several homes. Several soldiers who resisted arrest were beaten, witnesses said. (AP)

Radicals Linked To Blaze in Tokyo

TOKYO — A fire broke out and destroyed part of the home of a former Transport Ministry official in Tokyo on Wednesday, and the police said they believed the blaze to be the work of radicals opposed to expansion of the international airport at Narita.

There were no reports of injuries, a police official said.

At the scene, police investigators found batteries, wires and a container of fuel that might have been used to start the fire in the house of Hisao Takahashi, former chief of the ministry's civil aviation bureau, the official said. Mr. Takahashi is now a senior adviser to Japan Airport Terminal Co. at the airport, 65 kilometers (40 miles) east of Tokyo.

For the Record

The police used batons and tear gas and fired shotguns into the air Wednesday to disperse about 500 protesters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, witnesses said. No arrests were reported, but an opposition leader said 12 people were injured. (Reuters)

Indonesian Students Hold Protest*The Associated Press*

JAKARTA — About 200 students and faculty members gathered on a state university campus here Wednesday to shout slogans against President Suharto, despite a ban on political rallies.

The police did not intervene.

The demonstrators at the University of Indonesia said they were protesting government cronyism that they contend has aggravated the nation's economic crisis.

Chanting and raising their fists, the protesters called for the ouster of President Suharto, 76, who is almost certain to win a seventh, five-year term in elections next month.

In the city of Yogyakarta on Java, meanwhile, hundreds of students marched against Mr. Suharto to protest his handling of the economic crisis. "Bring down Suharto," read a banner in the peaceful protest at the Gajah Mada University.

A special assembly, which will virtually guarantee Mr. Suharto's re-election, will meet in early March to elect the new president and vice president, most likely B. J. Habibie, the research and technology minister who is an ardent economic nationalist.

The army, already jolted by riots over price increases outside Jakarta, the capital, has said it will intervene to stop any disruption of the vote.

On Monday, the armed forces enforced a 25-day ban on political rallies, arresting three women who were protesting on a main thoroughfare in the capital. The ban will be in effect until March 18, a week after the presidential election.

At the rally at the University of Indonesia, protesters sprayed black paint over a billboard declaring the university a "New Order" campus. New Order refers to Mr. Suharto's governing system, which views economic development as the nation's priority and restricts many political freedoms.

A truck full of police officers was parked near the campus gates and policemen and soldiers with walkie talkies watched from the street.

But the protesters, many of them wearing bright yellow university jackets, did not leave the campus.

Continued from Page 1

business favors to key support groups, including his family members and cronies.

Despite looming recession, a sharp rise in unemployment, painfully high interest rates and other problems South Korea and Thailand, investors and creditors seem increasingly convinced both countries have representative governments that will root out crony capitalism, reduce state interference in their economies, and overhaul their troubled banking systems.

After initial signs of rejection, South Korea and Thailand have swallowed the IMF's unpleasant medicine of government spending cuts, higher taxes and interest rates, and sweeping structural reforms of their economies. This includes a clean-up of the financial system that permitted banks to lend rashly to companies for excessive property development or industrial expansion, causing widespread bankruptcies and bad debts.

"I believe we have demonstrated our readiness to 'bite the bullet' and tackle our problems so as to restore the viability and dynamism of our economy," Chuan Leekpai, Thailand's prime minister, said Monday.

His government has impressed the markets by closing 56 of Thailand's 91 finance and securities companies that were judged to be insolvent, moving resolutely to privatize or recapitalize banks and lifting currency trading restrictions on the Thai baht. On Tuesday, it raised taxes on gasoline and luxury goods in an effort to show its com-

mitment to IMF austerity conditions.

South Korea has also impressed the markets, analysts said, by implementing reforms to open the way for greater labor flexibility, corporate restructuring and foreign ownership in its economy, while reaching agreement with international banks to turn a large part of the country's private sector debt from short-term loans into more manageable longer-term ones.

Rescheduling Indonesia's \$74 billion private debt mountain is much more difficult, because, unlike South Korea where most of the money was borrowed by a small number of banks, there are several hundred Indonesian companies that have loans outstanding.

Yet, in the past few months, instead of soothing markets, Mr. Suharto has rattled confidence in Indonesia's recovery by approving a budget that defied IMF requirements. Then, after the rupiah plunged, the president personally signed a strengthened IMF reform program.

Within weeks, before the program had a reasonable chance to work, he was flirting with the idea of a fixed exchange rate under a currency board system to force up the value of the rupiah, partly to save well-connected companies, including those belonging to his family and friends, from going bust, analysts said.

Reflecting a view that is widely held in financial markets, the IMF's Asia-Pacific director, Hubert Neiss, said recently that Thailand had "turned the corner, along with Korea."

Indonesia, he added, "is still in the intensive care unit. We will have to wait until the political situation gets clearer to see if the voters' will. They say that Kim Jong

be able to predict a full recovery."

That situation includes doubts about who will succeed Mr. Suharto as president after he is re-elected for a seventh and, almost certainly, final five-year term next month, and whether the next government will be more, or less, committed to reforms than the present one.

Meanwhile, Thai and South Korean foreign exchange reserves and currencies have strengthened as a result of the reversal in market confidence.

By contrast, Indonesia was forced last month to declare a de facto freeze on repayment of overseas loans by its private companies because the Indonesian rupiah had fallen much further in value against the dollar than any other Asian currency. It is down by nearly 75 percent against the dollar, compared

with 49 percent for the Korean won and 41 percent for the Thai baht.

The contrast was underscored Tuesday in Washington when Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said: "I think that in Korea and Thailand, governments have worked very well toward implementing the IMF programs. I think they are on a path to success."

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Mr. Mondale's trip, officials told The New York Times, will chiefly deliver a political message: that Mr. Suharto must choose his next cabinet carefully, avoiding longtime cronies, and create an economic team that the markets will perceive as willing to work with the IMF program.

"The first lesson from the Asian crisis is that a government that is not answerable to its people will not be likely to have open markets or the institutions required to impose discipline to overcome a financial crisis," said Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong. "It is important for the West to seek not only economic restructuring from Asia's teetering autocratic regimes, but substantial political reform as well."

Kim Jong Pil is also an important figure because under his deal with President Kim, South Korea is supposed to switch by the end of next year to a parliamentary system, with Kim Jong Pil running the country as head of government. But there are a few loopholes in the agreement, and many doubt that it will be put into effect.

KOREA: Legislators Immediately Rebuff Kim on Prime Minister

Continued from Page 1

figure from South Korea's repressive past and lacks the experience to revive the nation's economy.

"It is impossible to ram through the appointment of Kim Jong Pil as prime minister," Maeng Hyung Kyu, a party spokesman, said Wednesday. "We urge the government to select a wise figure who will help the nation overcome its present crisis."

Kim Dae Jung and his associates argue that the voters knew about the arrangement and that the nomination of Kim Jong Pil as prime minister is thus the voters' will. They say that Kim Jong

Pil will not withdraw

BRIEFLY

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Taleban Arrests Squatter Soldiers

KABUL — Taleban troops, through once-posh neighborhoods, the war-devastated Afghan capital Wednesday, arresting fellow soldiers who had illegally occupied areas after the militia took over Kabul.

The Taleban forced Pashayi Burhanuddin Rabani and his military chief, Ahmed Shah Massoud, out of Kabul in 1996, leaving scores of empty homes once occupied by his government men and commanders. Militia allies took over some of the houses while others were occupied by units of armed soldiers.

The authorities said they at least 50 soldiers Wednesday who had illegally occupied several houses, soldiers who resisted were beaten, witnesses said.

Radicals Linked To Blaze in Tokyo

TOKYO — A fire broke out in a destroyed part of the home of former Transport Minister Tadashi Takahashi on Wednesday, officials said, and they believed it to be the work of radicals opposed to the expansion of the international airport at Haneda.

There are no reports of injuries or fatalities.

At the scene, police investigated burn marks, wires and insulation that might have led to the fire in the home of Tadashi Takahashi, former chairman of the Japan Aviation Bureau, and Mr. Takahashi is a senior adviser to Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakamura at the airport 20 miles east of Tokyo.

For the Record

The police used batons and fired shotgun rounds to disperse about 200 protesters in Drakha, Bangkok, on Wednesday. No arrests were made, but an opposition leader said 12 people were injured.

and Economic Record

Mr. Mochizuki's crop, officials of the New York Times, will chiefly a political message that Mr. Suharto chooses his next cabinet carefully, choosing moderate crooks, and creating a powerful team that the market is willing to work with.

The first lesson from the Asian crisis is that a government that is unable to its people will not be able to its markets or the need to impose discipline required to combat a financial crisis, said Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong. "It is important for the West to seek not only economic restructuring from Asia's traditional regimes, but substantial reform as well."

Off Kim on Prime Minister

The announcement of the cabinet is normally chosen by the president. The prime minister's power is less than the president's. The president takes over — a significant change because President Kim is 74 years old and beginning a five-year term.

Kim Jong Il is also an important figure because under his deal with President Kim, South Korea is supposed to end the era of Kim's autocratic system, with Kim running the country as head of government. But there are a few loose ends. The agreement, and many details, will be put into effect.

Defector Details Soviet Germ Project**Dwarfing U.S. Program, Moscow Made Tons of Anthrax Bacteria**

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A defector from the former Soviet biological weapons program says that Moscow's Cold War plans for World War III included preparing "hundreds of tons" of anthrax bacteria and scores of tons of smallpox and plague viruses.

The defector, Kanaijan Alibek, now known as Ken Alibek, was second-in-command of a branch of the Soviet program and defected in 1992. He said in an interview Tuesday that these bacteria and viruses could have been mounted on intercontinental ballistic missile warheads on several days' notice in the early 1980s.

Dr. Alibek, a 47-year-old native of Kazakhstan, said the Russian military was still running a biological weapons program in 1991, a year after Mikhail Gorbachev ordered it halted.

Dr. Alibek, who works as a private consultant, has written a highly classified study of the Soviet biological weapons program for the U.S. government. Now he is offering a unique public description of a weapons program that was for decades one of Moscow's deepest secrets. Considered by U.S. intelligence officials to be credible about the subjects he knows firsthand — the size and structure of the Soviet biological weapons program from 1975 to 1991 — Dr. Alibek is thought to be less reliable on political and military issues he knew secondhand.

This question of whether Russia persists in the research and development of biological weapons is hotly debated in the U.S. intelligence community. Many analysts think some elements of the old Soviet program are continuing, but are far from certain that these include the development of offensive weapons.

"We can say Russia continues research in this area to maintain its military biological potential," Dr. Alibek said. "They keep safe their personnel, their scientific knowledge. And they still have production capability."

The American biological-weapons program was canceled by President Richard Nixon nearly 30 years ago. The United States continues to do research on programs to defend itself against biological attack, as Russia says it now does.

But Dr. Alibek said the Soviets never believed that the American biological-weapons program had ended. Through the 1970s and the 1980s, they pursued their own program in a secret arms race against a perceived threat.

Dr. Alibek, a medical doctor who held the rank of colonel in the Soviet military, left the former Soviet Union in 1992.

After he arrived in the United States, he was debriefed for the Central Intelligence Agency by Bill Patrick, who helped run the United States' biological-weapons program from 1948 to 1969.

Mr. Patrick said he learned in his talks with Dr. Alibek that the Soviet program "paralleled ours very closely" in terms of military technology, though "it took them many, many years to get past us with respect to biological agents, delivery systems and munitions."

By 1989, he and Dr. Alibek said in separate interviews, the Soviet program dwarfed the United States effort. "If we produced a pound of anything they produced a hundred to five hundred," Mr. Patrick said.

In late 1989, Dr. Alibek said, there came "a time of severe pressure from the United States and Great Britain to stop the Soviet Union offensive programs." There also came the seeds of doubt that led to his defection.

Georgia Kidnappers Free Last 3 Hostages

DZHIKHASKARI, Georgia — Kidnappers freed their three remaining United Nations hostages Wednesday as talks on Georgia's political future began with President Eduard Shevardnadze.

Gen. Charkviani, Mr. Shevardnadze's foreign policy adviser, said that all hostages were freed by Wednesday afternoon but that the kidnappers' leader had escaped. Russian news reports said three of the hostage-takers surrendered.

The weeklong siege ended as promised after a representative of the kidnappers began negotiations with Mr. Shevardnadze. The hostage-takers, who are followers of a previous Georgian president, had issued a broad array of demands, but had said they would agree to talk to them.

A Shevardnadze spokesman said the talks could be seen as the start of a political dialogue with supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was deposed in a coup in 1992 and died two years later.

The kidnappers seized four UN military observers on Feb. 19 and barricaded themselves in a house in this western village. Their demands included the release of seven jailed comrades and the talks with Mr. Shevardnadze. Details of the discussions were not immediately released.

BRIEFLY

Major Marten Molgard of Sweden heading for freedom with two other UN officials after their release Wednesday by Georgian kidnappers.

Belgium Guards Tackle Cash Pileup

BRUSSELS — Security guards returned to work Wednesday, ending a six-week strike for better protection on armored cars that left many cash machines empty and caused cash to pile up in shops and banks.

On their first day back on the job after a deal between unions and employers on increased security and other matters, security guards — accompanied by six heavily armed policemen per convoy — shuttled cash to and from 150 locations across Belgium, mostly banks, shops and supermarkets.

A state police spokeswoman said so much cash had piled up during the strike that police would accompany money transports between major cities for several days.

Security guards began a strike for more safety measures on Jan. 12 after a highway robbery in which two colleagues were killed. During the Christmas holidays one guard was gunned down on a sidewalk outside a Brussels shopping mall.

Separately, jail guards in Belgium's French-speaking southern half ended a one-month strike when the government

satisfied their demand for a 36-hour workweek without loss of pay. (AP)

Dini Sets Dates For Trip to Tehran

ROME — Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini will visit Iran on Monday and Tuesday, senior Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. It will be the first trip to Iran by an EU foreign minister since the European bloc lifted its ban on high-level contacts with the Islamic republic.

Mr. Dini accepted an invitation from the Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, to discuss relations between the two countries and the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, the ministry sources said.

The EU's decision to lift its ban on contacts is part of an effort by the bloc to repair strained relations with Tehran.

The ban on high-level contacts was imposed after a German court ruled in April that Iranian leaders ordered the 1992 killing of three Kurdish dissidents in Berlin restaurant.

The Foreign Ministry sources expressed satisfaction with the EU's decision, which they said "responds to the evolution in Iran." (Reuters)



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ERICSSON

Mexico

By Molly Mernit
International Correspondent

MEXICO CITY — The violence began on the night of the massacre of 150 Chinese miners by Mexican miners in 1928, but it's still there, a century later, in the form of every 10 paid employees here who have been killed for work and safety reasons since 1990. It's there in the ruined buildings and roads that were just fine when they were built, and in the opportunity for corruption that was just for the miners. It's there in the stories of the city's most notorious killing-party members, who nearly seven decades ago received levels of compensation that were one of the highest in the country. It's there in the stories of the miners' "black corporation," which produced and distributed coal in a "secret" way before it was implemented at the turn of the century.

DUMB: Interview

Continued from Page 1

we made public Tuesday, we're in our second year of another crisis," said Frank, an educational statistician at Michigan State University, who added, "Our two students in mathematics and science are simply not working to the very usual percentage of students taking advanced placement courses in the world's best universities." He noted particularly poor performance of the United States in global contests, based mostly on science and technology.

He also cited from the World Mathematical Competition, held each year in the spring of 1997, that 100 of students in their third and last year of school, Michigan students participated in the competition and about half that the rest of the other two countries' students already reported that they did not take part in the competition.

The math for America's young students

in public law June, observed

the United States to be slower than

the average and were headed

for the assistance of recent

young American scholars

to help them off.

High school results, measured by

the minister, had caused concern

amongst parents and

students, and average at mathematics

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of the three results. For high school

and being granted with many

large numbers of education

that is something wrong with

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has come to the school

to come to the

White House, Richard

Clinton confirmed what he

BUSH: Legend

Continued from Page 1

an early show a few presidents

and ladies did to spread disinformation to reporters and what

Mr. Starr's extramarital affair

was open an observation, but

even if the Clinton team

telling negative stories about

the prosecutor's team,

and that it would be consider

able for the Clinton team to be

the professional background

of his staff. But they used it to

say unusual — bizarre, —

Mr. Starr, a former federal prosecutor

for defense lawyers as well

as the private lives of prosecutors

the White House has denied that

he has any such thing, while

the spokeswoman has said that

the Clinton's office has been

the media isn't asking about

the White House.

But the

White House

is not the

<p

INTERNATIONAL

Mexico City's Mayor Shines a Light in the Dark Files of Corruption

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — Behold the inheritance bequeathed to the first elected mayor of this mammoth metropolis in modern history: Hundreds of computers wiped clean of all data, a payroll on which one of every 10 paid employees never showed up for work and a property office that could not account for almost half the city-owned buildings and real estate.

And that was just for starters.

In the three months since Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and his opposition party assumed control of the city administration from ruling-party appointees who had run it for nearly seven decades, officials have excavated levels of corruption so pervasive that one of the mayor's cabinet members described the government as "one big, black enterprise."

The capital's "successful governments promoted and legitimized corruption as a 'normal' way of life and work, and implemented it as the unwritten norm

for the relations between officials and citizens," said Mr. Cardenas, a member of the left-of-center Party of the Democratic Revolution, who campaigned on promises to clean up city hall.

Allegations of corruption are hardly new in a city where citizens routinely must pay bribes to obtain a water or telephone hookup, a driver's license or virtually any other government service.

But as opposition leaders in the capital and elsewhere in Mexico begin to break the grip of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, Mexico's government is undergoing a new revolution: the birth of this democracy's first independent system of checks and balances.

Using legal weapons that were virtually unheard-of in Mexico three years ago, newly elected opposition mayors, governors and members of Congress are launching investigations and audits of government corruption and ineptness. No longer just the subject of speculation and rumors that were swept under the carpet of one-party rule, government

scandals are the daily fodder of headlines in the national and local press.

"What we are having now is full exposure," said Sergio Aguayo, president of Civic Alliance, a private, good-government advocacy group. "That is an important aspect of the change we need. Democracy is not only free and fair elections. We have reached the moment when we have to create the laws and institutions that will sustain a culture of accountability."

The emerging view of the seamy side of Mexico City's government — which administers to 8.5 million residents inside the city limits of the federal district — has surprised even critics of the ruling party.

The city prosecutor, Samuel del Villar, estimated that as much as 40 percent of the city's \$4.5 billion in annual revenue is stolen by criminal organizations within the city government, dishonest employees and inefficiency. "We are just looking at the tip of the iceberg," Mr. del Villar said. "We don't know how big it is."

A former PRI mayor, Oscar Espinosa

Villarreal, who has since been appointed federal secretary of tourism, has said little publicly about the allegations. But one of his former cabinet members, whom he permitted to be interviewed on the condition that his name not be used, said: "It is false that the problem is of the dimensions they say it is. It is impossible. We systematically fought corruption. Some of the cases they are presenting now were started during our administration."

Mr. Cardenas and his senior officials concede that it will be difficult to prove many of their allegations in court because so many records from previous administrations have been destroyed or are in disarray. In addition, the city workers' union is fiercely protective of

employees, many civil servants fear speaking out, and many others have no interest in changing a system that has been used to supplement their meager salaries.

Current administration officials said they had found corruption and misuse of public funds at every level of the city government. Examples alleged by Cardenas administration officials include:

- Dozens of city offices were stripped of computers, telephones, furniture and files when the previous administration left office. Secretary of the Government Rosario Robles and Social Development Secretary Clara Jusidman both said their offices were bare.

- City officials say they cannot identify 22,000 of the city's estimated 50,000 buildings and properties because the records don't exist.

able to locate, 4,000 are virtually unusable without extensive repairs and 2,000 are in such poor condition that they should be sold as junk — even though millions of dollars in fake bills were submitted to the city for vehicle maintenance. Hundreds more, particularly late-model autos, simply disappeared in the final months of the previous administration.

• Criminal organizations with sources working in the city's data processing and computing offices continue to electronically steal city funds and divert them to private bank accounts.

• City officials say they cannot identify 22,000 of the city's estimated 50,000 buildings and properties because the records don't exist.

IRAQ: U.S. Reports Reassurances From Allies if Saddam Reneges

Continued from Page 1

accord would leave the United States in a box."

He said Wednesday that it was tantamount to buying "peace at any price."

"It is always possible to get a deal if you give enough away," he said. "The deal negotiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Iraq does not adequately address the threat posed by Saddam Hussein."

The Senate has no role in ratifying the accord. But Mr. Lott's scathing criticism from the floor of the Senate appeared likely to embolden some other congressional critics who view the agreement as an ill-advised acquiescence to a man deeply mistrusted by many Americans.

"Instead of standing on principle," Mr. Lott said of Mr. Annan's efforts, "he sat with the unprincipled and gave him what he wanted." In so doing, Mr. Lott added, Mr. Annan "has greatly harmed the credibility of the United Nations."

In New York, where Britain is proposing the UN resolution warning Iraq, the U.S. delegate to the UN, Bill Richardson, said that the administration favored a resolution making it clear that Iraqi noncompliance could prompt air strikes by U.S. and allied forces.

"We want to find a way to certify that if Iraq violates the agreement, there are going to be very serious consequences," Mr. Richardson said.

Mr. Lott said he was troubled by a sense that Mr. Annan had dictated a solution to the crisis to Washington.

"The secretary-general is calling the shots," Mr. Lott said. "The United States is not."

He added: "We must be clear. We cannot afford peace at any price."

The American public, which has had little love for Mr. Saddam since his forces invaded Kuwait in 1990, has been divided on the question of whether to begin a military attack against Iraq for its refusal of full access to UN weapons inspectors.

Many Americans, according to opinion polls, believe Mr. Saddam himself should be the target of an attack; others support diplomacy and warmly applaud Mr. Annan's efforts.

Mr. Lott's speech, which came a day after administration officials briefed members of Congress about the agreement, drew a tart response from the Democratic leader in the Senate, Tom Harkin.

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Continued from Page 1

Daschle of South Dakota. "I don't know what purpose it serves by attacking one another at this point," he said.

Mr. Daschle said that some details of the accord remained unclear, notably whether weapons inspectors will have full access to sites they want to visit, as President Bill Clinton said Monday.

But Mr. Daschle added: "If ever there was a time for us to present a unified front to Iraq, this ought to be it."

Most criticism of the accord has come from Republicans, including several who have called for a substantial military attack by U.S.-led forces in the Gulf region. Mr. Clinton has made it clear that the United States will maintain a powerful military presence there until it is satisfied with Iraqi compliance.

Mr. Lott asserted that the agreement

would allow Iraq the influence over the composition of UN inspection teams that Mr. Saddam had long sought.

"After years of denying that Saddam Hussein had any right to determine the scope of inspections or the makeup of inspection teams, this agreement codifies his ability to do both," the majority leader said.

The agreement calls for some diplomats from the five permanent Security Council members to accompany inspectors to eight "presidential sites" that Iraq previously had declared off-limits.

This, Mr. Lott contended, was "the beginning of the unraveling of the inspection process."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Tuesday that there were ambiguities on some of the inspection procedures.

Attacks on Americans

CIA Takes Islamic Threats 'Quite Seriously'

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Calls by Islamic militants for attacks on U.S. citizens, installations and allies around the world "are being taken quite seriously," according to a senior American intelligence official.

Although the calls were issued two weeks ago and linked to a threatened U.S. attack on Iraq, they "call for attacks to continue until U.S. forces 'retreat' from Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem," according to a memo prepared by the CIA Counterterrorism Center and released Friday by Senator Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona.

The calls — which intelligence officials consider to be official religious decrees called fatwas — came from a coalition of Islamic religious groups in London and a terrorist financier in Afghanistan.

Many Americans, according to opinion polls, believe Mr. Saddam himself should be the target of an attack; others support diplomacy and warmly applaud Mr. Annan's efforts.

Mr. Lott's speech, which came a day after administration officials briefed members of Congress about the agreement, drew a tart response from the Democratic leader in the Senate, Tom Harkin.

POLICY: A Wary White House Set Terms for Annan's Iraq Trip

December, Baghdad told Richard Butler, the chairman of the UN Special Commission, that it planned to restrict access to certain presidential sites.

The Pentagon was ready to act. The plan was to launch a military strike against Iraq before Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, began at the end of December. Mr. Clinton also seemed ready for military action, an official said.

Not everybody in the administration was prepared to act that quickly, as it had not consulted extensively with the Congress or lined up support among the allies. Nor had it won over the public.

According to the Pentagon, the next opportunity to strike would come after Ramadan ended at the end of January.

By late January, Mr. Clinton had signed off on a military plan that could be carried out should diplomacy fail. But in Moscow and Paris, there was no enthusiasm for a military strike. The Russians and the French worked hard — separately and together — to head off a U.S. strike.

A French official paraphrased President Jacques Chirac of France as telling President Boris Yeltsin of Russia in a phone conversation: "You know, Boris, you and I are trying to avoid a war over there. Bill wants to strike. Maybe you and I have a role to play."

By early February, there was strong international pressure for sending Mr. Annan to Baghdad, but in a meeting with Security Council representatives from France, Russia, Britain and China on Feb. 11, Mr. Richardson said he could not see the value of a mission to Baghdad by Mr. Annan, participants in the meeting said.

It did not seem to matter to him that Mr. Annan was in the room.

By the time Mrs. Albright met Mr. Annan four days later, the U.S. position had changed.

She — along with Mr. Berger — knew that if the United States was the lone holdout on an Annan mission it would appear isolated. Washington could not stop Mr. Annan from going to Baghdad on his own authority.

Sitting in Mr. Annan's town house over lunch, Mrs. Albright laid out the red lines, insisting that the UN inspectors have "operational control" over all investigations of suspected biological and chemical weapons sites in Iraq. They would also have to have unrestricted access to all sites and serve as the sole judge of Iraqi compliance.

If Mr. Annan did reach an agreement with Mr. Saddam, she added, the United States wanted it in writing.

In heated discussions in the Security Council, the Russians gave up their de-

mand that the inspections of presidential sites be limited; the United States agreed to the French idea for the appointment of diplomatic "chaperones" for the inspections and the postponement of air strikes.

But much to Washington's dismay, the council could not agree on written instructions for Mr. Annan. Before the secretary-general left, Sir John Weston, the chief British representative, read him words of "advice" based on what he said was "a level of agreement" — that met the U.S. requirements.

From the moment Mr. Annan arrived Friday in Baghdad, he knew the Iraqis were serious about cutting a deal, his aides said. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz insisted that the two talk privately that evening instead of waiting until their first scheduled meeting in the morning.

It was the beginning of a dozen hours of meetings with Mr. Aziz. By the next morning, Mr. Annan realized how difficult the negotiations would be.

He presented Mr. Aziz with the outline of an agreement that was based loosely on the advice he had received from the five permanent members of the Security Council. Mr. Aziz did not seem happy.

Mr. Aziz accused the inspectors of being too intrusive, a participant in the meeting said, saying they wanted to rifle through his belongings, something he said no sovereign leader could tolerate.

Mr. Annan dismissed much of what Mr. Aziz said as posturing for his colleagues, and from them on, the two men met one-on-one. But they could not agree on how intrusive inspections of the presidential sites would be. Mr. Aziz insisted that inspection of those sites be conducted only once and last only 60 days. When the meeting broke up at 2 A.M. there was no agreement.

The issue was still unresolved by noon Sunday, when Mr. Annan and three aides were driven in government limousines to the Republican Palace, Mr. Saddam's primary residence on the banks of the Tigris River and, ironically, one of the buildings off-limits to inspectors. There Mr. Saddam greeted his guests warmly.

Mr. Annan was described as respectful of Mr. Saddam, calling him a leader who needed to take a bold step for peace.

After three hours of talks that focused not only on the inspections but on Mr. Saddam's insistence on a deadline for lifting economic sanctions against Iraq, they struck a deal allowing inspectors immediate and unconditional access throughout the country. It also provides for diplomatic chaperones on inspecting the eight presidential sites.

DUMB: International Science Test Results Dismay U.S. Educators

Continued from Page 1

were made public Tuesday. "This study has burst another myth," said William Schmidt, an educational statistician from Michigan State University who coordinated the American portion of the study. "Our best students in mathematics and science are simply not world class. Even the very small percentage of students taking advanced placement courses are not among the world's best."

The results seemed particularly jarring given the dominance of the United States in a global economy based increasingly on information and technology.

The data come from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, which in the spring of 1995 tested samplings of students in their fourth, eighth and last year of school. More than 40 countries participated in the eighth-year portion and about half that number on each of the other two sections. The Asian nations, usually superior performers, did not take part in the high school portion.

The results for fourth-year students, made public last June, showed the United States to be above the international average and were hailed as evidence that the attention of recent years to improving American schools was starting to pay off.

The eighth-year results, issued seven months earlier, had raised concern because Americans dipped below the international average in mathematics although they scored above it in science.

But the latest results, for high school seniors, are being greeted with shock and dismay by large numbers of educators.

"There is something wrong with the system, and it is our generation's responsibility to fix it," Mr. Clinton said. "You cannot blame the schoolchildren. There is no excuse for this."

Education Secretary Richard Riley said the results confirmed what the ad-

Falling Behind in Math and Science

A new study of high school seniors in 23 countries shows U.S. students scored significantly lower than students in other countries.

NATION WITH SCORES ABOVE THE INTERNATIONAL AVERAGE	MATH	ADVANCED MATH	PHYSICS
Netherlands	France	Norway	
Sweden	Russia	Sweden	
Denmark	Switzerland	Russia	
Iceland	Denmark	Denmark	
Norway	Cyprus	Lithuania	
NATIONS WITH SCORES CLOSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL AVERAGE			
Italy	Australia	Slovenia	
Russia	Greece	Germany	
Lithuania	Sweden	Australia	
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Cyprus	
United States	Canada	Latvia	
	Italy	Greece	
NATIONS WITH SCORES LOWER THAN THE INTERNATIONAL AVERAGE			
Cyprus	Czech Republic	Switzerland	
South Africa	Germany	Canada	
	United States	France	
	Austria	Czech Republic	
		Austria	
		United States	

*Rankings within groups may not be reliable due to variance in statistical sampling.

International average is the average of all participating countries.

Source: Third International Mathematics and Science Study

NYT

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST**Starr Loses His Way**

It has long been apparent that Ken Starr has a tin ear for political appearances and public relations, but his decision to subpoena a White House aide, Sidney Blumenthal, undermines important legal and constitutional principles. On the tactical level, this move by the independent counsel is bone stupid. As a matter of principle, it is an attack on press freedom and the unrestricted flow of information that is unwarranted by the facts and beyond his mandate as a prosecutor.

This latest blunder fits a pattern of chronic clumsiness and periodic insensitivity to Mr. Starr's public responsibilities. His attempt to slough off his public duty and flee to Pepperdine University was dismaying. His political ties and refusal to give up private legal clients led us, in times past, to call for his removal. In four years he has failed to develop sensitivity to his obligations as custodian of an inquiry of national import. Apparently his staff contains no one who can talk him out of bad ideas.

This time he has failed in his obligation to the law itself. The effort to collect the name of every journalist who talked with a White House communications specialist amounts to a perverse use of the prosecutorial mandate to learn what the Nixon White House attempted to determine through wiretaps. Like any newspaper, we have an obvious selfish interest in the confidentiality of the reporting process. But you do not have to be a journalist to see that Mr. Starr has committed an ignorant assault on one of the most distinctive and essential elements of American democracy.

He created this mess by following a bad example. Two weeks ago the White

House started its own demagogic search for leaks in an effort to divert attention from the question whether President Bill Clinton and his associates had committed perjury or suborned others to commit it. Mr. Starr may also be miffed by reports that the White House has turned its trademark tool of personal attack on his prosecutorial staff. But he does not need to follow that pernicious example. He is armed with something more honorable and powerful in the mandate of the attorney general and the majesty of the law.

But civic health demands that Mr. Starr get on with the investigation he is authorized to conduct and bring it to a speedy conclusion. The public interest does not lie in Mr. Blumenthal's phone records. It lies in getting, as promptly as possible, the testimony of Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan, Bruce Lindsey, Bill Clinton and others whose testimony bears directly on the issue of false swearing.

In a tightly reasoned article in the National Journal, Stuart Taylor Jr. defended Mr. Starr's investigative procedures, including calling Ms. Lewinsky's mother before the grand jury, but called for him to resign in favor of someone with less political baggage. We are not at that point, because of the amount of time that would be lost. If at all possible, the nation needs to have this business driven to a conclusion without the delay that a switch in leadership would entail.

Every time Mr. Starr goes off on one of these tangents or misreads the law, he fritters away support from those who believe in the importance of this inquiry but bridle at his loose-weed judgments.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Choice for Puerto Rico

The U.S. Congress is getting serious about Puerto Rico's political future, for the first time since the United States picked up the island territory in an imperial war with Spain 100 years ago. By a carefully launched bill that may reach the floor early next month, the House of Representatives would set up a process to let Puerto Ricans choose their future status from among the current "commonwealth," statehood and independence options.

This would be no straw poll. The bill would define the details — financial, political, linguistic — of the statehood option favored in Puerto Rico. It would lock the United States into a 10-year transition to put statehood, or another choice, into effect.

The bill, sponsored by House Resources Chairman Don Young, Republican of Alaska, cleared his committee 44-to-1. He anticipates serious debate and substantial approval. It could be a great day for democracy.

But it also could be a difficult day. There is concern over the political lineup of the two senators and six congressmen who would go to a new state, and over which states would have to forfeit six seats in the House. There is argument over whether new tax revenues would, as sponsors claim, wash out new social program costs.

But the hot issue is language. There is support among Puerto Ricans to retain their Spanish-language heritage. Some in Congress, however, would make Puerto Rico the battleground for an attempt to legislate English as the official language of the United States.

The Young bill undertakes to deal

with this question chiefly by providing for use of English in the courts and other official venues, while increasing and improving English-language training in the schools. This seems sensible. A strict official-English policy ignores that Washington never asked Puerto Rico to embrace English when it took over the island and when Puerto Rico sent its sons to fight in American wars. Such a policy also ignores the extent to which the United States by practice and culture is already a considerably bilingual nation. Alarms of creating an "American Quebec" are a spoiler from the official-English debate.

Puerto Ricans always could get the language of their preference by independence, but that option has never risen above a few percentage points. This makes Congress's definition of statehood crucial. To put statehood on the three successive referendums the bill calls for but then to burden the option with a provocative English requirement is unfair. It thrusts upon the island's 3.8 million residents a choice between political empowerment and cultural identity. For decades, American political leaders have held out Puerto Rican statehood as an option. It would be a mockery to load it up with unneeded political accessories when it began to look real.

A commitment to common rights, responsibilities and ideals, not a dominant language, bonds Americans. A commitment to democracy should drive Americans to ensure Puerto Ricans full and equal rights as American citizens. It has been, after all, 100 years.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment**America on Its Own**

Despite the Gulf War, [the United States] had in the Near East the benefit of immense prestige and capacity of action thanks to the peace process and the Oslo accords. But that capital has been squandered. The United States will not recover its prestige until such a time as it forces the hand of Benjamin Netanyahu ... All the more so because the appearance on the scene of a moderate presidency in Iran diminishes, in the eyes of many Arab countries, justification for the heavy American presence in the region ...

As for Europe, we should be aware that the strong tendency of Americans is to take ever increasing distance from it. In the long term, Europe will therefore have to give itself the means ... of its emancipation.

For the time being, it would do well to realize what is going on. By way of

direct management of NATO enlargement to Central Europe, Washington is seeking two privileged allies: Poland in the east, Britain in the west. Its goal is well known: the gradual undoing of assertive policies of the European Union, and rejection of a political Europe led by France and Germany, in favor of a NATO under U.S.-British control.

—Jean-Marie Colombeau,
publisher, commenting
in *Le Monde* (Paris).

Why go to war? To show that America is determined to impose its own "world order" by force of arms? But it has no mandate from the world community to do any such thing, and will never get its blessing, whatever high-sounding democratic rhetoric is sounded to justify the use of force.

—Mikhail Gorbachev, in a column distributed by New York Times Special Features.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92571 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
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E-mail: ihlt@ihlt.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 3 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 198000. Tel: (65) 472-7700. Fax: (65) 274-3234.
Asia, Terry Dauer, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 392-1188. Fax: (852) 262-1000.
Germany: T. Schäfer, Friedrichstr. 15, 00223 Berlin. Tel: +49 30 971250-0. Fax: +49 30 971250-20.
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Seven Challenges for a Brave President in Seoul

By Richard Halloran

HONOLULU — The new president of South Korea confronts seven challenges that comprise the most formidable trial for his nation since its liberation from Japan in 1945.

This is no ordinary change of government. Kim Dae Jung's success or failure will determine not only the immediate future of Korea but also the security posture of the United States in Northeast Asia, where 80,000 American troops are stationed in South Korea and Japan in a single area of military operations.

In addition, the fate of the new government will affect other Asian nations struggling to right their capsized economies, to sort out issues of governance, and to find safety in a volatile region.

Mr. Kim is given an even chance for success by many Koreans, even those who did not vote for him and by some foreign observers, including this writer, who has known him for more than a quarter-century.

His challenges will include:

• Leading South Korea out of a valley of tears into which, like several other Asian nations, it has plunged with a falling stock market, declining value of currency and a stringent recovery regimen imposed by the IMF.

• Coping with a hostile North Korea

whose belligerent negotiating style holds little promise of progress in four-party talks scheduled to resume in Geneva next month. The United States, China and the two Koreas are supposedly seeking ways to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula.

• Consolidating his political position after getting only 40 percent of the Dec. 18 vote in a three-way race. He has a minority in the National Assembly, and he has promised a parliamentary system in which he would become a largely figurehead president in two years.

• Reducing the corruption that permeates not only the political and business worlds but also many aspects of daily life. Koreans say there has been less corruption in recent years, but acknowledge that it is still pervasive.

• Responding to rising anti-Americanism that has spread from left-wing students to middle levels of politics, government bureaucracy and the armed forces. Many Koreans want American forces to leave South Korea even as they wish to retain the country's alliance with the United States.

• Purging residual anti-Japanese emotions that hinder Seoul's ability to

recover economically and to play a constructive role in Asia's international relations. South Korea's rulers have nurtured bitter feelings toward Japan ever since 40 years of harsh Japanese rule ended 53 years ago.

• Dissuading Koreans from blaming someone else for everything that goes wrong, and instead encouraging them to accept responsibility. The initial reaction to the current economic crisis, for instance, was to blame the United States, Japan and the IMF.

To meet these challenges, President Kim will need undisputed courage, a thirst for information that is the source of political power, a shrewd analytical ability to set his own politics aside when calculating events, and a lifetime of ambition, having first sought the presidency in 1971.

On the other hand, he is 72 and has had health problems.

His courage has been tested in two attempted assassinations, a court-imposed death penalty, and years of prison or house arrest.

In one instance, he was kidnapped from a hotel in Tokyo by South Korean government agents in August 1973 and taken out to sea, where his legs and arms were bound with chains and weights. He heard crewmen talking

about how to make sure his body disappeared beneath the waves.

Strong protests from the Japanese and American governments saved his life, and he was returned to Seoul. In a long interview the next night, he gave a detailed account of his ordeal in a calm, almost detached manner.

"They had done a beautiful job of kidnapping me and getting me out of Japan, but they made one mistake. They had not expected the Japanese to be in such an uproar over the infringement of their sovereignty."

After three months of diplomatic maneuvering, President Park Chung Hee sent Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil to Tokyo to apologize for the kidnapping. In a supreme irony, the two Kims, who are not related, made an election campaign deal last year under which Kim Jong Pil would become prime minister under President Kim Dae Jung.

Kim Dae Jung has indicated that he is aware of most of the tasks before him. In particular, he has vowed that South Korea will tighten its economic belt. He may just pull it off.

The writer, a former correspondent in Asia for The New York Times, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

The IMF Reforms Can Make South Korea More Democratic

By Kyung Won Kim

SEOUL — When the conditions proposed by the IMF for bailing out South Korea's debt-ridden economy became known in late November, the press and public alike reacted with shock, concern and nationalist indignation.

Newspapers began calling the proposed IMF regime an economic trusteeship that would

overrule the country's economic sovereignty.

Reflecting this disapproval,

Kim Dae Jung, then an opposition presidential candidate, said that if elected he would "renegotiate" the terms of the agreement with the Fund.

Ironically, it was Mr. Kim — sworn in as South Korea's new president on Wednesday — who eventually convinced the public that the nation's financial conditions were such that there was no alternative to the proposed IMF regime.

Clearly, South Korea's acceptance of the economic re-

form conditions attached to the \$58 billion emergency loan package arranged by the IMF was made easier by the democratic process that allowed the conditions to be debated openly and fully.

The peaceful transfer of power between political parties also aided the process.

As it turned out, Mr. Kim's

earlier coolness to the IMF program gave him greater credibility when he argued that South Korea had no alternative but to follow its strictures.

The new president and his government will have to deal with soaring unemployment, higher inflation, increasing corporate bankruptcies and many other problems. The social unrest and resistance to change by big business will present extremely difficult and complex challenges to the government.

Success is far from assured.

If South Korea succeeds in carrying out the structural reform program agreed upon with the IMF, that will change the country in important and fundamental ways.

Reform will produce sufficient transparency in the corporate and banking sectors to make the kind of large-scale financing of political parties by

family-run conglomerates impossible. The conglomerates will have to focus on reducing their dangerously high borrowings. They will not be able to finance projects unrelated to the main business of earning profits.

Without funds, it will be impossible to maintain and operate the old-style political machines that dominated South Korea's politics.

More open politics and a free market will strengthen democracy and freedom in South Korea. This is something that members of the U.S. Congress who oppose funding the IMF should remember.

If South Korea succeeds in carrying out the structural reform program agreed upon with the IMF, that will change the country in important and fundamental ways.

Reform will have to be more thorough. The bureaucracy will be freed from the pressures used to come from politicians to channel resources, including bank loans, to the conglomerates. The rationale for state capitalism and excessive government intervention in the economy will be lost.

The benefits of structural reform are clear. It will modernize and strengthen the fi-

ning the teams as troublemakers and demanding that they operate under the same rules as Mr. Annan's team.

This kind of thing has happened before. For the past six years, Iraq has challenged Unicom to behave more like the International Atomic Energy Agency teams that did not find the Iraqi nuclear program in the 1980s.

It could well be that no inspection system has much chance of working.

Iraq has gone all-out to acquire weapons of mass destruction and to defeat international attempts to unmask and block those efforts. Even after seven years of the most intrusive arms inspections ever to be imposed

on a country, Unicom is still unsure of the extent of the Iraqi weapons program.

To date, Iraq has filed more than a dozen supposedly complete disclosures of its prohibited weapons, and each one has been shown to be false.

The monitoring system did not detect the Iraqi government's efforts after the Gulf War to develop new missiles, nor did it unearth the previously unknown biological weapons program. Both of these came to light only as a result of the defection of two of Saddam's sons-in-law, who were later lured back to Baghdad and killed. Given their fates, it would be unwise to count on future relatives, equally knowledgeable but naive, to come forward with new information.

Mr. Annan's latest proposal could set back even the modest inspection progress that Unicom has made.

Buying time before turning to military action is worthwhile only if that time is invested in trying to change Iraq's political situation. By signaling that one can do business with Saddam, Mr. Annan has blocked any opportunity for political change.

The writer, former chief nuclear weapons inspector in Iraq for the International Atomic Energy Agency, is vice president of Science Applications International, a research and engineering company. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO**1898: Maine Mined?**

NEW YORK — The news from Washington to-day [Feb. 25] is graver than at any time since the Maine disaster occurred, and high officials of the Administration no longer conceal the fact that they regard the situation as extremely critical. Although the board of inquiry is still conducting its investigation secretly, all reports from Havana assert that the Maine was destroyed by an outside explosion, most probably by a submarine mine.

The lesson that America's power is limited is hard for Washington to accept. Its consequent frustration, combined with its illusions, repeatedly has prompted it to build these confrontations up into huge affairs of national prestige

OPINION/LETTERS

Spacey, Smug America Gets What It Deserves

By Jonathan Yardley

WASHINGTON — In the long history of American politics and diplomacy, is there a chapter more ludicrous than the one now unfolding? Surely not.

Lord knows, American leaders have made stupid, ill-advised decisions in the past, but they did so within a more or less rational, responsible context. This is just about the last thing that can be said of the present exercise in dithering and pandering.

After three months of diplomatic maneuvering, President Park Chung Hee of South Korea apologized to Tokyo for the killing of his son. In a supreme irony, the two Korean leaders, who are not related, made an election deal last year under which their sons would become prime minister and president. Kim Dae Jung has indicated he is aware of most of the talk between them. In particular, he has urged South Korea will tighten its belt. He may just pull it off.

The writer, a former correspondent for The New York Times, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

It all begins with Saddam Hussein, who is to America in the 1990s what Fidel Castro was in the 1960s.

Washington had the chance to extirpate Saddam in 1990 and blew it, thanks to an extraordinary failure of presidential and military resolve. Now, under a president who has far less claim to military leadership than did George Bush and who has no claim at all to moral leadership, America's leaders are trying to figure out how to screw it up again.

Let's assume that something has to be done — that in his own part of the world, and possibly on a far larger scale, Saddam Hussein is not merely a nuisance and a mischief maker but a menace.

His violation of UN agreements is reason enough to call him on the carpet. If it is true that he has the capacity to conduct biological warfare beyond the borders of Iraq — not to mention his known capacity to launch attacks by more conventional means — that is cause to root him out.

So get him out of there. But do it by presidential decisiveness and leadership, not by poll taking, tea leaf reading, astronomy (or should we make that astrology?), meteorology, market sampling and television scheduling.

Yet it is precisely all of the above that Bill Clinton is using as he stumbles toward doing something or other, one of these days, maybe, about Saddam Hussein.

When Theodore Roosevelt sought to urge the nation toward consensus and action, he mounted what he so famously called the "bully pulpit" of his office. Mr. Clinton is conducting what Barton Gellman of The Washington Post described as "a marketing campaign for air strikes on Iraq" (IHT, Feb. 18).

Whatever the explanation for it — surely much has to do with

the financial sector and major companies increasing profits. It will also be significant alliances with South Korean and, mainly, American nations. Marrying U.S. and manufacturing strengths with a major impact on global corporate culture.

More open political freedom will strengthen democracy and freedom of expression. This is something members of the U.S. Congress should remember as they support the work of a dozen or so human rights groups in Asia to transform into truly democratic states.

The writer, a former correspondent for The New York Times, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

the situation, he chose so long as it's painless for them.

What we are watching now is not policy-making, it is a parody, one that comes appallingly close to slapstick. We have a country spaced out on smugness and merely indifferent to public affairs led by a president under the influence of marketers and pollsters.

Maybe the American people really don't want a coherent foreign policy. Maybe all they want is to live a little longer on Fantasy Island. If that's the case, they have just the president they deserve.

Paula Jones, Monica Lewinsky and other comely young ladies — what we have is a presidency characterized by timidity and evasion.

"Everyone's got the calendar out," Steven Erlanger reported in The New York Times, "trying to schedule a manageable little war with Iraq. There are the Islamic holy days to consider, the cycles of the moon, the president's trip to Africa and even parents' weekend at Stanford University" (IHT, Feb. 17).

There is also CNN, which as a Wall Street Journal editorialist pointed out, "knowing that its viewership rises during anything in the news with a passing resemblance to a crisis ... has been flogging the 'crisis' with Iraq."

Hence the truly amazing — and not a little degrading — picture of the secretaries of state and defense dragged before CNN's cameras and an audience at Ohio State University to present the case for a war in Iraq. The audience turned out to be most gratifyingly hostile.

These, mind you, are the same people who have been giving Mr. Clinton higher and higher ratings as suspicions about his personal behavior and ethical probity have become more and more plausible.

Fully 58 percent of vox pop, according to a recent poll, believe that "Clinton has a clear policy on Iraq," which suggests that the American people are smoking en masse what Mr. Clinton himself, when young, sampled but the says did not inhale.

To Mr. Clinton, this poll is proof that the public is on his side. But surely a more realistic view is that the American people, blissed out on the big bull market and round-the-clock entertainment, are perfectly happy to let the president do any old thing he chooses so long as it's painless for them.

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The Washington Post.

Not So Nasty, Brutish or Short: Life Keeps Looking Up

By Julian Simon

WASHINGTON — Look around when you are next in a theater, a mall, classroom or religious service. (I happened to be in a church celebrating a wedding as this thought entered my mind.) Note the well-dressed man who might be an engineer, the neatly groomed woman who might be a business executive, the casually dressed service worker and other middle-class attendees.

Reflect that 200 years ago or less, the ancestors of 19 out of every 20 people you see today were living at or just above subsistence level somewhere in the world: grubbers in the soil or perhaps village smiths or shoemakers. Virtually all of their ancestors were people that the tiny middle and upper classes thought of as loutish and dull peasants whose lot in life — "nasty, brutish and short" in Thomas Hobbes' famous phrase — would not greatly improve before their deaths.

The situation was pretty much the same for every generation, going back 2,000 or 20,000 years.

"The farther back you look," Winston Churchill is reputed to have said, "the further ahead you can see." When we look very far back, we see clearly that the long-term prospects for the standard of living of all humanity are spectacularly good.

The progress that humanity has experienced in the last two centuries has no precedent. Since 1750, every trend in material human welfare has shown accelerating improvement, almost everywhere. It is our happy fate to live in the midst of this most amazing time.

These trends do not mean that people will be more or less "happy" about their own lives; about that I have no prediction. Nor am I ignoring contemporary social ills: mass graves in Bosnia, HIV epidemics, sexual exploitation of children and the like. These are sometimes cited as justification for long-range pessimism about the state of humanity. But over the last 200 years, pessimistic forecasts about

human prospects based on anecdotes about social ills have been repudiated by the reality of material progress.

An especially mistaken forecast was made by the English economist Thomas Malthus in 1798 when he predicted in

MEANWHILE

"An Essay on the Principle of Population" that population growth was an inexorable juggernaut that would keep the mass of mankind in misery forever.

To Malthus's credit, after his dismally wrong first edition based on nothing but arithmetic and speculation, he educated himself and reversed his original conclusions. Unfortunately, almost no one pays attention to the correction Malthus made in his own theory.

The claims of modern-day Malthusians notwithstanding, mankind's progress will continue indefinitely in the future. Barriers to catastrophe surprises in the first half of the 21st century, most of humanity will soon come to share the long healthy life that is now enjoyed by the middle-class residents of the advanced countries.

The progress of the race against death has been breathtaking since the first miracle drugs against infection were used in the 1930s. Progress in the fight against the AIDS virus in recent years is but the latest demonstration of the awesome intellectual power that humanity can now muster against threats to our well-being.

This power does not from tested theories accumulated during the past millennium and especially during the past two centuries. It also flows from our communal

wealth. Much more than the power to create and enjoy gadgets, our wealth represents the power to mobilize nature to our advantage, rather than to just accept the random fates of nature.

The record of humanity shows that, on average, the people in each generation create a bit more than they use up. Not only must this be true to account for the increase in our wealth and numbers, but if this were not so we simply would have become extinct as a species. The essential condition of fitness for survival of our species is that each generation creates a net surplus on average, or at least breaks even.

The doubters wonder whether our present glorious age is just another blip in history, like the Egyptian, Persian and Roman empires and the golden age of Greece. They ask why we should believe that the progress we have experienced since 1750 is an irreversible breakthrough.

One reason is that ours is the first age in which material gains have been enjoyed by more than just a tiny fraction of humanity.

Also, every measure of human material welfare has shown dramatic improvement, not only life expectancy and mortality, but also transportation, communications, nutrition, leisure time, you name it.

On the one hand, the falling price of oil throughout the 20th century was proof that the overall cost of obtaining oil had to be falling. But wells were being drilled deeper and deeper, which called into question whether the physical production costs were rising in some important parts of the industry. But industry data show that the worldwide production cost per barrel has been falling since 1980. So not only is more oil being found but it is getting cheaper, and not more expensive, to find it.

How are we to understand the trends of the past and their implications for the future?

A theory that fits the facts: More people and increased income cause problems of increased scarcity of resources in the short run. Heightened scarcity causes prices to

rise. The higher prices present opportunity, and prompt inventors and entrepreneurs to search for solutions.

The record of humanity shows that, on average, the people in each generation create a bit more than they use up. Not only must this be true to account for the increase in our wealth and numbers, but if this were not so we simply would have become extinct as a species. The essential condition of fitness for survival of our species is that each generation creates a net surplus on average, or at least breaks even.

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Also, every measure of human material welfare has shown dramatic improvement, not only life expectancy and mortality, but also transportation, communications, nutrition, leisure time, you name it.

Finally, the concept of evolution argues that — in the absence of huge change in the physical world from climate change or planetary collision — humanity will continue to go forward. We ride the greatest trend of all: We leave the world a little better than we entered it. This is the strongest reason to believe that humanity will not retreat to the Stone Age or to extinction.

Julian Simon was a University of Maryland business professor and the author of "The State of Humanity" and "The State of Humanity 2." This essay, summarizing his most recent work, was adapted from a piece he submitted to The Washington Post shortly before his death on Feb. 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iraq Crisis

Regarding "Attacking Iraq: Immoral and Counterproductive" (Opinion, Feb. 19) by William Pfaff:

Immoral? Winston Churchill sacrificed the English city of Coventry so that the Germans would not be aware that Alan Turing had deciphered their Enigma code.

Norwegians erroneously believed it was close to completion. This was a hypothetical threat, too.

What is immoral was to have sold Saddam Hussein the means to manufacture weapons of mass destruction in the first place.

MALDEN ANDRIJASEVIC, Beersheba, Israel.

Regarding "Jordan Fears It Can Only Lose in a U.S. Assault on Iraq" (Feb. 20):

The article is on target in asserting that Jordan could only lose from an attack on Iraq. Jordan

paid a heavy price during the Gulf War, absorbing tens of thousands of refugees, losing Iraq as its primary trading partner and being set back in its economic restructuring program. But it is not true that King Hussein ever "supported" Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

King Hussein has tried to resolve the crisis within an Arab framework. If anyone in Jordan should be criticized, it is not King Hussein but the likes of the opposition leader Leith Shubellat, who advocates violence and plays no constructive role

in fostering peace in the region.

MASSOUD DERHALY, London.

Would the United States not be in a stronger position in demanding that Iraq observe UN resolutions if it itself observed the rules and paid its UN dues in full?

M. CHASE, Bonifacio, Corsica.

Skating as Sport

Regarding "Figure Skating May Be Lovely, But That Doesn't

Make It Sport" (Sports, Feb. 21) by Michael Wilson:

It is too bad that Mr. Wilson takes such a narrow view of figure skating. While the judging of figure skating and ice dancing needs an overhaul to ensure impartiality, that does not diminish the athletic aspect of a highly competitive and popular sport.

Also, skaters not only have to complete difficult moves, but they have to make them look easy, too.

CAROL CAVANAUGH, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

BOOKS

JACK LONDON: A Life

By Alex Kershaw. 335 pages. \$25.95. St. Martin's.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

THAT the life of Jack London continues to attract the attention of biographers more than three-quarters of a century after his premature death comes as no surprise, because — not to put too fine a point on it — London lived one hell of a life. It was, as Alex Kershaw writes, London not Hemingway "who first personified the writer as man of action, who truly lived out what he wrote," and it was from the raw material of London's example that the romantic American myth of the writer-adventurer was constructed. Like Hemingway, London is more important, and perhaps more interesting, for his persona than for his work, which makes him in some respects a biographer's dream.

Thus Kershaw's bibliography lists more than a dozen full or limited London biographies; the most recent of these is for a general readership. Andrew Sinclair's "Jack," was published two decades ago. In the intervening years nothing of moment has been discovered about London that in and of itself would mandate a re-examination of his life, but that has not prevented Kershaw from writing this readable, intelligent and discriminating book.

All of that and still more, for not merely was Jack London the first to give us the writer as adventurer; he was also the first to give us the writer as celebrity. His fine novel "Martin Eden" — Kershaw is one of few students of his work to give it proper respect — is, along with another book called "John Barleycorn," the most autobiographical of London's books and remains even now, almost nine decades after its publication, an unwise marriage followed by a meteoric divorce and remarriage; spectacular successes that failed to yield genuine happiness or assuage deep self-doubt. South Pacific voyage and a California mansion, the first cut off short in disarray and the second destroyed by fire, and lurking in the back throughout it all the demon rum, the preferred agent of self-destruction of 20th-century American writers and artists.

And all of that still more, for not

merely is it an old story, fleshed out not merely by all those demigods of the 1920s and 1930s — Hemingway and Fitzgerald and Wolfe — but also by the likes of the "Brat Pack" of the 1980s, who fell afoul of publicity and elated while they were still mere babes. But in London's day the story was as yet untold, and if one can bear this in mind while reading his life, the sense of foreboding can be grim and depressing.

London was 27 when "The Call of the Wild" was published, an age at which most people are still trying to figure out what their life's work will be. It is true that he had nearly a decade and a half of harsh and demeaning labor, that his efforts at writing had mostly been contemptuously dismissed and that he was gripped by frustration; but for all of that, his literary success arrived with dizzying, if not paralyzing, swiftness. He managed to do more work, some of it exceedingly good, but it did not take him long to sink into disenchantment and bitterness.

ONONDON'S story was not quite so clear-cut as he fancied it to be. On the one hand he detested the phoniness of the world into which renown plunged him, on the other hand he calculatedly contributed to that renown, not through his work but through the construction of a persona, including "a heroic ancestry, the genealogy of a great Californian," that bore scant resemblance to reality. In this he anticipated Hemingway and Faulkner and innumerable others who, no matter what they may have said to the contrary, thought the work was not enough and contrived personal mythologies by way of guiding the lily.

Washington Post Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

FOR a hand providing drama and irritation in high degree, the diagramed deal would be hard to beat. It occurred in a private team game last month at the Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Florida. South and West were both surprised to have freak hands, with 12 cards in two units.

At the first table, Sissy Ducey and Alice Lupton sat North-South, with Millie and Tom Cushing East-West. South opened with one diamond, knowing she would have further chances. West ventured a Michaels cue-bid, showing his cheering listeners off to the room.

Bidding textbooks do not provide for this situation:

holding a strong six-card suit when an opponent is known to have at least five, North tried to convey this message with a jump to three hearts.

South was not sure what was going on, but made a sensible jump to six diamonds, reaching a good contract. The lead was crucial, and West made the winning decision by choosing a spade. South had to win with the ace and lost an entry prematurely. She threw a club on the ace of hearts, then thought carefully.

Finally she tried to cash another heart and was unhappy when West ruffed and the slam failed, since two club tricks had to be lost. It was some consolation to find that the alternative but inferior play of finessing the club queen at trick three would also have failed, since West can ruff.

In the replay, the North-South cards were held by Joan Campbell and Eckley Cox, known as Buzzy. East and West were Marjorie Whitehead and Winifred Walker. South opened two clubs, strong and artificial, and eventually tried seven diamonds after West had overcalled in spades. Seven no-trump would have been laydown, but it was hard to blame South for failing to consider that possibility.

Again West had to guess, and misguessed by leading a heart

TribTech

Disk-Drive Madness: How Far Can It Go?

Move Over, Chipmakers, It's a Capacity Game

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN JOSE, California — An IBM laboratory has developed a disk drive the size of a poker chip that can hold the equivalent of more than 500 large novels, offering striking evidence that one of the computer industry's oldest technologies is in the midst of a remarkable renaissance.

While Silicon Valley has for decades been mesmerized by the blinding pace of the semiconductor industry, in the past seven years the disk storage industry has been moving forward at an even more mind-boggling clip.

In December, scientists at International Business Machines Corp.'s Almaden Research Laboratory, tucked in the hills above Silicon Valley, announced that they had succeeded in storing more than 1.16 billion bits of data in one square inch (about 6.5 square centimeters) on the surface of a rotating magnetic disk.

Last week, researchers at Quinta, a division of Seagate Technology Inc., the world's largest independent disk-drive maker, announced a daring storage approach that would blend microscopic optical lasers with traditional magnetic recording technology, pushing the storage capacity of the disk drive well beyond what has long been believed to be the physical limit of magnetic media.

So impressive are the storage gains that disk-drive engineers are now suggesting the previously unthinkable: replacing computer memory chips with tiny disk drives for devices such as digital cameras and handheld computers.

In 1983, French scientists discovered that certain magnetic materials displayed an unusually large increase in electrical resistance when they were exposed to a magnetic field. IBM researchers soon determined that by layering exotic materials they could fabricate a generation of ultrareceptive sensors that allowed data to be packed more densely.

But while IBM was the first to introduce and market the new GMR heads, today it is in a hot race to commercialize the new technology. In Japan, both Yamaha Corp. and TDK Corp. are in the early stages of producing GMR heads, and several U.S. companies will double every 18 months.

IBM's DATA show that storage density has grown 60 percent annually since 1991, while semiconductor density has grown a maximum of 50 percent each year. It was 1991 when IBM introduced a technology for reading digital information known as the MR (for magnetoresistive) head. The head is the part of a drive that moves back and forth over the spinning magnetic disk, writing data to it or reading from it.

"If we simply look at real density, the data suggest that magnetic is moving faster than silicon," said A. Currie Munce Jr., director of storage systems at Almaden.

For consumers, this increase in capacity has meant falling costs for computer data storage, producing the kinds of

inexpensive, high-capacity drives that made possible the first real multimedia computing. A survey by Disk/Trend Inc., a consulting firm in Mountain View, California, of the average cost of hard-drive storage shows that the average cost of a megabyte of storage plummeted to 10 cents as 1997 ended from \$11.52 in 1988. It predicts the cost will fall to 2 cents in two years.

James Porter, president of Disk/Trend, said, "That means that the parts count for each disk drive has fallen dramatically, while the value delivered to the consumer is significantly greater."

There are many technological advances in today's disks, but IBM's MR head was probably the biggest step forward. Today, IBM's densest magnetic-technology products — 2.5-inch disks designed for the portable computer market — store 3.1 billion bits of information per inch. IBM researchers at Almaden now say they expect further advances for five or more years, until they encounter a physical limit known as the superparamagnetic effect. The term refers to a point at which discrete magnetic areas on a disk's surface will be so tiny that their magnetic orientation will be unstable at room temperature.

THE IBM scientists predict they will reach that limit by using a more sensitive version of MR technology called the giant magnetoresistive, or GMR, head. GMR, the basis of the experimental 11.6 gigabits-per-square-inch storage record reached last year, is based on an unusual physical phenomenon.

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Less Space, More Data

Model 3340 hard disk 1973

Capacity of unit shown (megabytes) 140

Model 3370 1979

Capacity of unit shown (megabytes) 2,300

Model 3390 1989

Capacity of unit shown (megabytes) 60,000

Travelstar VP 1997

Capacity of unit shown (megabytes) 1,600

Travelstar 8GS 1997

Capacity of unit shown (megabytes) 8,100

Source: IBM Almaden Research Center

The New York Times

The concept may never take off, however, Mr. Porter said, noting that IBM will face stiff competition from Iomega Corp.'s new Click drive, which is designed to be built into small digital devices such as cameras. Scheduled to be shipped to manufacturers in the second half of this year, the drive will use a 3.3-by-2.1-inch removable disk that will store 40 megabytes of data and is expected to sell for \$10.

On the horizon are two Silicon Valley startups — Seagate's Quinta and Terastor Corp. Both are planning to demonstrate prototypes of a class of disk this year combining lasers, magnetic sensors and microelectromechanical systems, or tiny mechanical systems made using techniques of semiconductor manufacturing.

Mr. Swartz was working on a program in a recently devised language,

Despite the appealing challenges of dissecting these apparently simple requests for information into their primitive, machine-ready atoms, exasperation won out. After a few years, I retreated to mathematical abstraction and to the more profoundly moving demands of the piano keyboard.

Returning to the lab last week for a visit raised second thoughts. The experiments being done were similar (though the 1960s vintage accelerator was replaced with a 20 million volt "tandem Van de Graaff" model in 1987). A postdoctoral fellow in nuclear astrophysics, Ken Swartz, was sitting in the same old computer room, its floor scarred with the marks of long-discarded hardware.

Mr. Swartz was working on a program in a recently devised language,

ALT / Commentary

A Nostalgia for the Days of Keypunch

Binary Codes From Yesteryear Inspire Technological Flights of Fancy

By Edward Rothstein
New York Times Service

The dark marks on the linoleum are the remnants of where, some 30 years ago, a noisy keypunch stood. I once spent hours thumping at its keyboard, punching out lines of Fortran computer programs onto cards that once warned users not to "fold, spindle, or mutilate." Each card coded a single line of the program.

But more often than not, there were errors somewhere. Printouts had to be pored over, control panel lights examined. Sometimes, "individual addressees" in the computer's memory had to be checked to find out where things were going wrong. The sole purpose was to get an individual pixel on a black and white video screen to respond to the movement of a light pen — a precursor of the mouse.

It was easy to miss the forest for the trees. Or rather, for a leaf. Or for a single vein. For the real purpose of that pixel, of the hundreds of lines of code, of those massive, refrigerator-sized tape drives whirling back and forth, was found in the next room of the cement-walled A.W. Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory at Yale University.

There, a massive nuclear accelerator was projecting beams of particles onto a square-centimeter film of tin or tungsten or some more exotic isotope. The most advanced computer technology was used to help examine the gamma-ray pulses that emerged. The data needed to be seen more quickly and "massaged" with greater flexibility.

For an undergraduate with a passion for abstract mathematics and an interest in physics, there was great appeal in coming into this brightly lit lab late at night to work on such arcane matters. But there was also exasperation in struggling to make hundreds of lines of instructions execute simple commands: Display a graph of all the pulses of energy that emerge from that bombarded film; then let the light pen amplify some pulses for closer inspection.

Now tasks are easily accomplished, so new questions can be asked: What words are being used from earlier speeches? Do the pauses between words have meaning? What language is being used?

That shift in perspective and possibility seemed almost palpable when one of the lab's leading physicists, Con Beaussang, led me to a workstation located on the spot where the keypunch

Iva, taking for granted what was hardly imaginable when I wrestled with pixel plotting. In a window of his Sun workstation sat the long-sought graph of experimental results. In four lines of Java code, more was accomplished than in hundreds of lines of Fortran.

At the same time, the tools themselves are unrecognizable. The room-filling IBM 360/44 I worked on with all its clunky mechanical apparatus had been replaced by an IBM 4341, which gave way to a Concurrent 3280, a system that John Baris, the director of computer systems, pointed out to a visitor as "that pile of junk you see out in the corridor." Now data collection is

handled by a book-sized circuit board.

Technological advances can inspire nostalgia for machinery or crafts being displaced. I felt none of that. The earlier tools were inadequate to their tasks; we had been pushing their limits. It was like asking a stenographer to catch every word of a taped speech while also counting those words and alphabetizing them.

Now tasks are easily accomplished, so new questions can be asked: What words are being used from earlier speeches? Do the pauses between words have meaning? What language is being used?

That shift in perspective and possibility seemed almost palpable when one of the lab's leading physicists, Con Beaussang, led me to a workstation located on the spot where the keypunch

once sat. A graph of gamma-ray energies was on the display.

"Thirty years ago," Mr. Beaussang said, "that would have taken maybe a week." Of course, we know computers keep getting faster — but we tend to think of these increases as merely quantitative: allowing graphics to be displayed more easily, or permitting more elaborate simulations. But something more profound has changed. The nature of detail is different, and so are the premises. More is taken for granted, so more can be imagined.

The director of the Yale laboratory, Richard Casten, said: "The work is not just quantitatively different but qualitatively different. We can answer questions we really gave up on years ago." Structural information is discerned just as before, from the raw numbers corresponding to the pulses of gamma-ray radiation. But now, 30 detectors are arranged in a sphere around the point of impact in a room known as the "Gamma Cave." The "events" are pinpointed in nanoseconds. Each experiment produces between 50 and 100 gigabytes of data.

Mr. Beaussang said that 30 years ago this mass of data would have been beyond the powers of any computer to process. There was too little power to consider the kinds of questions now being asked.

This was at once humbling, exhilarating and exasperating. We think of technology as evolutionary, each new step building on a step taken before. Perhaps that display of experimental data on the screen was made possible in some small degree by the old tedious work at the keypunch. But in that once-familiar lab, the current technology had turned old work into trivia.

That is partly illusion: computers still work with 1's and 0's, the trials of the past inform the present. But the past's disposability is also why technology inspires flights of fantasy — for a fleeting moment, I wondered what it would be like to write code again.

Edward Rothstein writes the biweekly *Connecticut* column for the New York Times.

New South E...
Outline Eco...
ew Blame Predece...

MEDIA MARKETS

Waterstone's

CURRENTS

Selling

Directed

Marketing

Product

Development

Customer

Relationship

Management

Process

Quality

Service

Delivery

Logistics

Inventory

Planning

Control

Cost

Risk

Supply

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Network

Information

Technology

System

Design

Analysis

Optimization

Simulation

Forecasting

Pricing

Planning

Control

Management

Process

Development

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Management

Process

Development

Customer

Relationship

Management

Process

Quality

Service

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Logistics

Inventory

Planning

Control

Management

Process

Development

Customer

Relationship

Hit Records in Spain and Portugal Meet Deficit Goals

Nations Say They Qualify for the Euro

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

Spain and Portugal

Spain and Portugal said Wednesday their budget deficit in 1997 met the criteria for joining the single European currency, the euro, at its scheduled beginning next year.

Spain's deficit last year was 2.6 percent of gross domestic product, well below the 3 percent limit for qualifying for the euro and down from 4.4 percent in 1996, Economy Minister Rodrigo Rato said.

Portugal's deficit was 2.5 percent of GDP, Finance Minister Antonio Sousa Franco said below the government's target of 2.9 percent.

"If Italy meets the criteria, we see no reason for it to be penalized," he said. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Spain and Portugal meet the requirements to enter EMU, Mr. Rexrodt said. He also said "the situation seems favorable" for Italy but that the data "need to be studied."

Mr. Guterres said Wednesday that Italy should be allowed to join.

"If Italy meets the criteria, we see no reason for it to be penalized," he said. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

■ EU Sees 'Small' Asia Effect

The European Union's annual economic report, adopted by the European Commission on Wednesday, said Asia's financial crisis could dull the EU's growth outlook, Reuters reported from Brussels.

"The financial turbulence in Asia will lead to some reduction in economic growth in the EU in 1998, but the adverse impact is likely to be rather small," the report said.

It said the impact would be to cut "about a quarter of a percentage point" from growth in 1998. The commission forecast last October that the EU economy would grow 3 percent in 1998. A revised forecast is due to be presented March 25.



PIRELLI CAMPAIGN — The Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo in Milan on Wednesday with an ad to trumpet the Italian tire manufacturer's moves to invest \$230 million in Brazil. The ad mimics the statue of Jesus Christ that dominates Rio de Janeiro.

at Asia Lifts Markets

Semiconductor equipment rose after an analyst said chip demand made it appear the stocks were overvalued. Rose 13% to 373.80, Elec. Sales 3% to 533.40, and KLA-Tencor 3% to 45.56.

But Intel fell 3% to 46.50. Alex Brown downgraded semi-financial software, concern its earnings might be weak.

Circus Circus Entertainments fell 22% to 516 after the company had been several investors buying back shares.

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NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.

The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 17

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS February 25, 1998
available on Internet: <http://www.iht.com/IHT/FUN/funds.html>

Quotations supplied by fund groups to Micropal Paris, t : 33-1 49 28 09 09, e-mail : infodata@micropal.fr
For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Houri at (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or E-mail : funds@iht.com
To receive free daily quotations for your funds by E-mail - subscribe at efunds@iht.com

The data in the list above is the raw supplied by the fund groups to Micropal SA. It is collated and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the IHT. Micropal and the IHT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the data of the performance of funds of the Fund Groups will not be liable for the list, the data of Fund Group to any extent. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the IHT or Micropal to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent advisor before investing.

Louis Vuitton

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998



LOUIS VUITTON
LONDON, 17/18 NEW BOND STREET
PARIS, 101 AVENUE DES CHAMPS-ELYSÉES
READY-TO-WEAR. HANDBAGS. LUGGAGE. ACCESSORIES. WRITING



Nature in its truest form.

This is the original Ricola Swiss Herb Candy — its shape and ingredients have remained unchanged for 40 years. The outside is rough and edged like hewn rock. The inside deliciously mild and pleasant. Right from the beginning we have kept following the same traditional recipe with its blend of 13 precious Swiss herbs to give you and your throat the soothing pleasures of Ricola.



NYSE
Monday's 4 P.M. Close

Wednesday's 4 P.M.
1,000 most traded National Market securities
terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

NASDAQ

Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

PAGE 18

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998

WORLD ROUNDUP

Ivanisevic Crumbles

TELEVISION Wayne Ferreira, ranked No. 47 in the world, took 64 minutes to beat Goran Ivanisevic, ranked 16th, by 6-2, 6-4, in the second round of the London indoor tournament. Ivanisevic, who served 11 double faults, said it was "one of the worst matches I've ever played indoors."

Ferreira dropped one point on his own serve a first set that lasted 19 minutes and broke his opponent immediately in the second. (Reuters)

• Xavier Malisse nearly turned his professional debut into a major upset, pushing Pete Sampras to three sets before the world's No. 1-ranked player prevailed, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, in the Advanta Championships in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Malisse, 17, of Belgium, was ranked 851st on the ATP Tour computer when he came through qualifying.

"I didn't know what his favorite shots were, and it took me awhile to figure them out," said Sampras.

Malisse broke Sampras' serve in the first game, then won the first set by taking 12 of 13 points in the final three games. (AP)



Marc Rosset playing Andrew Richardson Wednesday in London. Rosset withdrew hurt.

Oilers Can Move Again

FOOTBALL Bud Adams, the owner of the Tennessee Oilers, has agreed to pay \$1.2 million to Memphis to get out of the contract to play a second season at the Liberty Bowl. That leaves the team free to negotiate a deal to play next season in Nashville. A new 67,000-seat stadium in Nashville will be ready for the 1999 season.

Vanderbilt University's 41,448-seat stadium is the team's likely option. The Oilers averaged an NFL-low 28,028 fans the Liberty Bowl last year, their primary home after abandoning Houston in favor of Nashville. (AP)

Greene Outruns Bailey

ATHLETICS Maurice Greene, the world champion, confirmed his status as the top 100-meter runner in the world with a convincing victory over Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion, in a meet in Melbourne on Wednesday. Greene, an American, was timed in 10.06 seconds. (Reuters)

Soccer Club In England Bought for £30 Million

REUTERS LONDON — Mark Goldberg, a computer industry millionaire, said Wednesday that he had bought Crystal Palace, the English Premier League club, from its chairman, Ron Noades.

Goldsberg, the managing director of the London-based computer company MSB, also said that Juventus, the Italian champion, would take a 10 percent stake in the south London club. Juventus did not immediately confirm this.

The takeover was reportedly worth £30 million (\$49.5 million).

Crystal Palace is in the bottom three in the Premiership and, if it cannot improve its position, will be relegated to the first division at the end of the season.

Goldsberg also said that he intended to hire Terry Venables, the former coach of England, as manager. On Wednesday afternoon, Steve Coppell, the manager, said he had agreed to resign when a replacement was found. He will then become "development director of football" at the club.

"Steve will help implement the Junvenus model at Crystal Palace," Goldsberg said.

"Juventus will be technical directors for football," Goldsberg said. "They have a formula which has been proven over many years to optimize the experience and expertise of the playing staff."

Noades will continue to run the club until the completion of the takeover, "or on or before October 1998."

The new owner signed Sasa Cacic, a midfielder, from Aston Villa for £1 million on Wednesday.

• Aston Villa on Wednesday appointed John Gregory, a former player and coach at the club, as successor to Brian Little, who resigned as manager on Tuesday. (AP, Reuters)



Benedict McCarthy, right, of South Africa shooting while watched by the Congolese defender Kibonge Selenge. (AP, Getty Images)

McCarthy Saves African Champion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Benedict McCarthy scored deep in extra time Wednesday to earn South Africa, the defending champion, a 2-1 victory over Congo and a place in the final of the African Nations' Cup.

Keve Bembuana gave Congo the lead after 48 minutes. Bembuana had replaced Congo's leading striker Tondela Mbilia at halftime. McCarthy equalized after 59 minutes with a swerving shot, then won the semifinal by drilling a close-range shot past Nkweni Mayala with seven minutes of extra time left.

McCarthy, a 20-year-old striker who plays for Ajax Amsterdam, became

the top scorer in the tournament with seven goals.

In extra time, the teams tired in the 30-degree centigrade (86-degree-Fahr-

SOCCER

enheit) heat. Bembuana spurned several chances before McCarthy struck.

South Africa will meet either Burkina Faso or Egypt who were playing later on Wednesday. (AP, Reuters)

■ UEFA Replaces Referee

Alarmed by press speculation that a referee and linesmen for a Cup Winners Cup game were given VIP treatment by one of the clubs, UEFA, the governing

body of European soccer, decided Wednesday to replace them, The Associated Press reported from Nyon, Switzerland.

Leif Sundell, a Swedish referee, and his linesmen were to officiate at the quarterfinal next week between Real Betis of Seville and Chelsea. But the trio went to see Betis play Espanyol in the Spanish league Sunday.

They were filmed sitting in the VIP area by Spanish media and, although UEFA decided they were doing nothing underhand, it pulled them from the Cup Winners Cup game.

The three officials were working at a tournament in southern Spain involving Swedish Clubs.

Study Faults Teams for Scarcity of Minority Coaches

By Gerald Eskenazi
New York Times Service

from 18 percent in the National Football League offices, and to 28 percent from 22 percent in the headquarters of Major League Baseball.

But he said that as of last December, only 20 percent of NBA players were white, while 76 percent of the head coaches were. And in the NFL, 31 percent of the players were white but 90 percent of the head coaches were. In baseball, 58 percent of the players were white, compared with 86 percent of the managers.

In a study of colleges, the center found that although there were 25 head-coaching openings in Division I-A football after the 1996 season, only one school, New Mexico State, hired a black. Also, the study found that of 249 Division I colleges playing basketball, not one had a black head coach. And in all sports in college, blacks made up 4.2 percent of the head-coaching total.

"Jackie Robinson had two dreams for sport," Lapchick wrote in this year's report. "Increased player opportunities

and similar increases for front office and coaching positions. The first dream has been overwhelmingly fulfilled. The latter is overwhelmingly unfulfilled."

Lapchick said that the NBA commissioner, David Stern, and the NFL commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, had tried to lead by example via minority hiring in their offices. Figures for Major League Baseball are incomplete in some cases.

Lapchick said in the report that "sport remains the one national plane where people of color and whites seem to have the greatest opportunity to set a national example for the rest of the country." A premise of the study is that organized sports, including those on the college level, should mirror the racial composition of society.

Among the findings:

• The NBA has the best record of bringing women and minority-group members into management, while baseball the worst.

• League offices do "far better than teams" in their hiring practices.

• Not one major professional sports team has black majority ownership.

• Not one major professional team has a senior physician who is black.

The only failing grade went to baseball, where top management, according to Lapchick's definition, received an "F." This group includes owners.

Rich Levin, a spokesman for Major League Baseball, said that 8 percent of baseball's senior executives were minority-group members. "The front office was 19 percent," he said, referring to all kinds of management jobs. "We think those numbers are pretty good."

Stern, the NBA commissioner, said, "We have and will continue to always strive for the best possible people."

Joe Browne, an NFL vice president,

said, "Under Commissioner Paul Tagliabue's direction, we believe progress has been made, but work remains."

Lapchick said, "Unless the hiring practices filter down to the teams, inequities will remain."

CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD									
ACROSS									
1 Smart	2 Middle of the ride	3 Miss — of —	4 Not deliberate	5 Not on deck	6 Kind of truck	7 Unaffected	8 Work for Moffo or a butto	9 Look — (visit briefly)	10 Name on a combsarch box
11 Start for Moffo or a butto	12 Stink	13 Refee Groes, South Africa, 2:26	14 Work for Moffo or a butto	15 Name on a combsarch box	16 Its hub is in St. Louis	17 Like pricer meat	18 Start of a riddle	19 Name on a combsarch box	20 Middle of the ride
21 Gate announcement	22 Riddle answer	23 He was a Lamb	24 Cover	25 Its hub is in St. Louis	26 Riddle answer	27 Scout master	28 Rose-breasted bird	29 Cover	30 Miss — of —
29 Middle of the ride	31 Gate announcement	32 Cultural heading	33 Naval type	34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —
30 Miss — of —	31 Gate announcement	32 Cultural heading	33 Naval type	34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —
31 Gate announcement	32 Cultural heading	33 Naval type	34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate
32 Cultural heading	33 Naval type	34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often
33 Naval type	34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often
34 Biblical verb	35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride
35 He was a Lamb	36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate
36 Like pricer meat	37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix
37 Name on a combsarch box	38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate
38 Middle of the ride	39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate	47 Noun-forming suffix
39 Miss — of —	40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate	47 Noun-forming suffix	48 Not deliberate
40 Not deliberate	41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate	47 Noun-forming suffix	48 Not deliberate	49 Not deliberate
41 Temp, often	42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate	47 Noun-forming suffix	48 Not deliberate	49 Not deliberate	50 Not deliberate
42 Temp, often	43 Middle of the ride	44 Not deliberate	45 Noun-forming suffix	46 Not deliberate	47 Noun-forming suffix	48 Not deliberate	49 Not deliberate	50 Not deliberate	51 Not deliberate
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52 Not deliberate	53 Not deliberate	54 Not deliberate	55 Not deliberate	56 Not deliberate	57 Not deliberate	58 Not deliberate	59 Not deliberate	60 Not deliberate	61 Not deliberate
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54 Not deliberate	55 Not deliberate	56 Not deliberate	57 Not deliberate	58 Not deliberate	59 Not deliberate	60 Not deliberate	61 Not deliberate	62 Not deliberate	63 Not deliberate
55 Not deliberate	56 Not deliberate	57 Not deliberate	58 Not deliberate</						

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

For Super Of Running His Triumph Is Ethiopia

By Frank Lush
New York Times

NEW YORK — No one else has ordered Haile Gebrsellasie to win; he disappoints the world.

But the world's most successful runner feels he must win people, who are among the world.

"I run for myself and the

"They're always pushing me,

unfair. I like to break my

own records."

They have pushed so well,

responded so well, that he

10,000 meters in the 1996

Olympics and the 1997 world

championships. In 1997, he set

his best record by Kenyan

and 10,000 meters.

Those accomplishments be-

won the Jesse Owens Me-

Trophy Award, to be award-

ed right night in Manhattan. He

originated in 1981, honor

the best amateur athlete. Previ-

ously, Lewis Edwin Moses, Florence

Joyner, Mary Slaney and Scher-

man track and field. Eric

Johann Olav Koss from spe-

cialty Longman from drug

LeMond from cycling.

At 5 feet, 4½ inches and 125

½ kilograms, 24 looks more like

a rocker than a runner. He

sets them easily for an hour.

He can run easily for another

hour, and another record.

He is anything but. In Ethio-

pean hero. When he is

around, he commands at

least \$25,000 per

appearance for a world record.

For the last four weeks, he

has three times a week and

performed circuit. The re-

turn, starting 1½ miles

around the 1.5½ miles 44.25

meters, an unusual world

record and 72 for 3,000

world indoor record, since

Charlton Komes of Kenya.

The end is not in sight.

The world records are

not the man who says

he is the man who says

